THE INDEPENDENT

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Polly Toynbee: Don't peer too closely into private lives 2I/COMMENT

TODAY'S NEWS

Last chance for Opera House chiefs

The Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, has decided not to act immediately against the board of the Royal Opera House and its chief executive, Mary Allen, after a damning MPs' report demanded that they all resign or forfeit public subsidy.

The report paints a picture of the Royal Opera House dogged by mismanagement and financial failure and at "the lowest point" in its distinguished history.

"We would prefer to see the House run by a philistine with the requisite financial acumen than by the succession of opera and baller-lovers who have brought a great and valuable institution to its knees," the report said. Pages 3

Pledge to remove the fear of crime

A wide ranging package of reforms would give police powers to tackle "the fear which infringes on the daily lives of law-abiding citizens" has been announced by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary.

The main thrust of the Bill is to combat the blight of disorderly and anti-social behaviour plaguing local communities. Courts will get the power to restrain thugs who harass their neighbours and intimidate witnesses, backed by jail sentences of up to five years. Paedophiles and other sex offenders will be monitored for 10 years after leaving jail. Page 5

Real men need oestrogen

Men are kept fertile by tiny amounts of female hormone. scientists have discovered

It was previously believed that oestrogen, which regulate the menstrual cycle and produce body changes in adolescent girls, were intrinsically female, while androgens (such as testosterone) were at the heart of masculinity. Now it seems that real men benefit from having a bit of

Dead wrong on Mars?

Life on Mars? No there wasn't, according to a team of American scientists, who have produced a comprehensive rebuff to the claims by the US space agency Nasa that it had found fossil evidence of past extra-terrestrial life in a meteorite from the red planet. In fact, according to the team at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Ohio, the things that Nasa mistook for fossil bacteria in the potato-sized meteorite were actually fractures in the rock. Page 14



TELEVISION The Eye, page 12 CROSSICORD'S Page 32 and

the Eye, page 9 MEATIMER The Eye, page 10

Veb address: http://www.

Steak will never taste the same again, say chefs



Cooking up a storm: Michel Roux at work yesterday after the ban beef on the bone was announced. Without doubt this will affect my cooking,' Mr Roux said. 'It is a real shame for food lovers' Full story, page 7 Photograph: John Voos

Beef on the bone is banned in new scare

Beef will no longer be sold on the bone, the Government has announced. Charles Arthur and Colin Brown look at why, from today, we should not buy T-bone steaks, rib of beef, oxtail, ribs, or even gelatine and Oxo cubes.

The crisis that engulfed the Conservative government and cost Britain £1.5bn yesterday confronted Tony Blair's government with the agonising decision to ban beef on the bone from all shops, supermarkets, butchers and restourants, Jack Cunningham, the Minister for Agriculture, acted immediately to try to shore up public confidence in the meat trade after receiving the advice of the Government's scientific experts that there was a small risk of BSFinfected material getting into the human food chain through bones.

The Government was forced to act quickly after recommendations made by the committee leaked out from its monthly meeting on Tuesday night. The ban will apply to imported beef as well. The European Commission said last night that it would be legal to ban such sales - as long as the meat is deboned in the United Kingdom.

But the rushed decision - based on new scientific work by the Central Veterinary Laboratory - led to confusion, consternation and in some cases, immediate action by restaurants. By lunchtime yesterday, T-bone steak was off the menu at Beefeater and Harvester restaurants.

Farmers were dismayed, "What a time to announce it! We're right on our knees with the strength of the pound. We've got terrible problems with imports," said Ian Pettyfer, a farmer who had been taking part in a protest about government inaction over

low farm incomes. Although meat "on the bone" represents only about 5 per cent of the beef market, banning it has a symbolic effect, while also showing that the book on BSE, or mad cow disease, is not closed.

The new tests consisted of purposely infecting cattle with BSE and then killing them at various stages of the disease. Extracts from tissues were then injected into mice to see if they became ill. The results found that the peanut-sized nerve bundles known as the "dorsal root ganglia", which lie beside each vertebra of the spine, could be infectious. That in turn could endanger humans, because the BSE disease agent - a misshapen form of a normal body protein - can cause the "new variant" form of the brain-wasting illness Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (v-CJD). Officially, 23

Britons have so far died of v-CJD. Dr Cunningham said that the move was being taken on a precautionary basis, "It will ensure that UK consumers continue to be given the highest protection possible against the risks from BSE, while we press ahead with our determined action to eradicate this disease."

He and Professor John Pattinson, chairman of SEAC, the expert committee which gave the advice, said last night at a hurriedly arranged press conference that the same tests which uncovered the new risk had shown that meat, beef liver and

kidneys were safe. Restaurants will be stopped from making oxtail soup to halt the supply of bones, although cans of soup are regarded as safe. The ban will also halt the use of bones in stock cubes, and gelatine for food which includes some confectionery.

The ban will not come into effect until an order is passed through the Commons but Dr Cunningham said in the meantime, the public should stop buying beef on the bone either in shops or restaurants. "If peo-

ple who want to avoid a very small risk they should only buy beef off the bone."

In the Commons, Michael Jack, the Tories' agriculture spokesman, said the move would worry quality butchers and farmers raising long-maturing animals.

Dr Cunningham replied: "Consumers are worried too. Are you really suggesting that we should have suppressed this information, that we should have refused to act on SEAC's advice and that we should have kept this matter quiet? Is that what you would have preferred?

"Notwithstanding that this is a very small risk, I could not accept that even a small risk should be taken. That is the basis on which we have taken this action.

He said that other experiments using the same technique have so far shown negative results for muscle, meat and blood. But Stephen Dealler, an independent expert on BSE and CJD, said yesterday that using mice might be too insensitive a test:

"You can only inject a small amount into them, whereas humans eat comparatively large amounts of food." He said yesterday's ban is "a reasonable step to take" because "it's impossible to say exactly how infectious these tissues would be." Yet the finding also implies that British

meat produced under existing UK regulations is safer than that imported from abroad. The infectivity only showed up in tissue from cattle over 30 months old - but those cannot be used for food in the UK.

Yet on the Continent, such cattle are regularly used for food. And countries there are now showing the signs of BSE outbreaks which could devastate their beef industry as much as Britain's. "There are more infection in other countries - they're at the beginning of their epidemic, rather than the tail end," said Dr Dealler.

Farmers' fightback, page 7 Letters, page 20

Car insurers will have to bail out NHS

Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, will today announce a plan to force the insurance industry to bale out the NHS. Our correspondent reveals that the Government plans to charge £100m-ayear to insurers for the treatment of victims of road accidents.

The National Health Service has long been the unseen victim of the 320,000 serious traf-

EXCLUSIVE BY IAN BURRELL

fic accidents which happen in Britain each year. Hospitals often foot the bill for the treatment of victims in accidents caused by the negligence of another driver.

Today Mr Dobson will announce a programme to make the insurance companies of culpable motorists pay for the emergency medical treatment.

The Government is also preparing legislation to place the burden of responsibility on the insurance companies to pay out automatically, rather than waiting to be asked for money by hospitals.

Unknown to many motorists, the insurance industry already includes the cost of possible health charges in its premiums, although the companies are rarely asked to pay up.

Yet the Association of Government extended the plan

to make them liable for longmedical treatment of vicms it could lead to a major

Grease in premiums.

Tomorrow letters will arive on the desks of all chief excutives of NHS trusts, telling them to track back through hospital records to identify cases where money is recoverable.

Mr Dobson has told the trusts to "lodge claims and pursue them vigorously". Minsters believe that £100m a year an be clawed back under the w arrangements.

Since road traffic legislation as introduced in the 1930s, ectors and hospitals have had the right to reclaim the costs of treatment. Yet since the establishment of the NHS in 1945, bospitals have raisely tried to recoup their money.

The Department of Realth recently carried out a study of NHS trusts and was appalled 3! how many of them claimed nothing back from insurance companies, often because they were daunted by the legal process involved. By contrast. one trust which did pursue its costs recovered £365,000 a year from this source.

A simple tariff is now being drawn up to charge insurance companies for different types of treatment, up to a ceiling of around £3,000 a patient.

A department spokesman said: "The change in law will place the onus on the insurance company to pay up. At the moment a lot of NHS trusts are not pursuing the money they are owed because of the paper chase they have to go through."

Andrew Dismore, a Labour MP and lawyer, had first raised the idea of making the insurance industry help pay for the NHS in a paper written for the said the idea should now be extended to include the treatment British Insurers said that if the of other patients, such as victims of accidents in the workplace.



At 16, Mary ran away from a life of abuse. Today she is homeless. Could you sleep easy on Christmas Eve knowing she was shivering in a bus shelter?

You can help keep Mary, and thousands of vulnerable people like her, safe and warm over Christmas. With £25 from you, Crisis can provide a warm bed, hot meals, clean clothes and someone to talk to at one of our shelters.

As the days count down to Christmas, over 4,000 homeless people are counting on Crisis. We're counting on you. Our service depends on public donations. So please send your £25 today - in time to help us buy the bedding food and clothes we need to bring Mary in from the cold.

Countdown to Christmas Yes, I'll keep homeless people warm:

☐ £15 ☐ £25 ☐ £50 ☐ £250° other £___ I enclose a cheque made payable to Crisis. OR debit my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Switch[†] other ____

†Last three digits of Switch card no. 1 1 Switch issue no. 1 Expiry date______Signature____

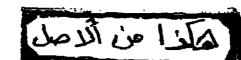
* Gifts of £250 or more are worth almost a third extra to us under Gift Aid Name (caps) Mr/Mrs/Ms

OR please call our freephone donation line 0800 44 88 98 Crisis, FREEPOST, Room 917, London SE218BR Details have been changed to protect identity.





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British police dogs he and readiness to take and readiness to take on even the most unsavoury characters, but now best friend into criminal's worst enemy.

The image of the trust sty bobby with his faithful companion (such as Sabre, pictured) by his side is a familiar one. But the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to a familiar one and water following allegations of cruelty during the animals' training.

The decision, by the adjumal welfare establishment committee, followed claims that a police dog died after being kicked during training by Essex police. Acer, a German Shepherd, collapsed and died on 11 November while on a week-long refresher course. A post-mortem examination showed

that he died from a haemorrhage caused by a ruptured liver. It was alleged that Constable Mark Needham, Acer's handler, was ordered to kick the dog while he was tied to a pole, to teach him to control his aggressive tendencies. A close colleague said PC Needham had refused to kick the dog at first and was devastated when the two-year-old black and tan dog collapsed.

Essex police had already begun an internal investigation following complaints from another dog handler about the force's training methods. A statement from the force said: "Following a complaint

year about training methods imployed by the Essex Police Dog Training Centre, an internal investigation was set up under Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark." Training methods used by the centre have been stopped pending the results of the investigation, it added.

An RSPCA stokeswoman said: "The suspension on the rehoming of RSPCA dogs to police forces will remain place until the internal investigation by Escar Relies in general tend. We have to be constituted in the state of the constitution of the state of the state

vestigation by Essex Police is completed. We have to be particularly watchful, especially if the dogs we supply have already come from a home where they are hadly treated. We have to be completely accountable to the peo-The who fund us."

The training methods which were understood to have led to the death of the dog have horrified other police dog trainers and handlers. Corporal punishment of dogs is banned in a Home Office police training manual.

PEOPLE



Judge sets March deadline for all Louise appeals

Lawyers for Louise Woodward (pictured in court) may seek permission for her to be allowed back to England for Christmas after the highest court in Massachusetts declined yesterday to grant a prosecution request that she be returned to prison.

"Obviously we would prefer to see Louise have an opportunity to go home for the holidays," Andrew Good, a member of her defence team, said after the hearing at the Supreme Judicial Court in Boston. "We may appeal to the courts for leave for Louise to use her passport".

In a hearing that lasted barely two minutes, Justice Ruth Abrams pledged that criminal proceedings in the nanny trial would be con-

cluded once and for all in March both sides. While the prosecution when the full court of seven justices will rule on all appeals issues pending in the case. Normally. such an appeals process would take at least a year.

Before Justice Abrams yesterday was a prosecution request for a stay of the extraordinary rulings issued by Woodward's trial judge. Hiller Zobel, three weeks ago when he reduced her guilty verdict in the death of Matthew Eappen from second-degree murder to one of manslaughter and set her free.

Woodward would have found herself instantly returned to prison. It was deferred by Justice Abrams for consideration in March alongside the formal appeals expected from

wants the second-degree murder verdict reinstated, the defence will be seeking a dismissal of the manslaughter conviction and final vindication for Woodward.

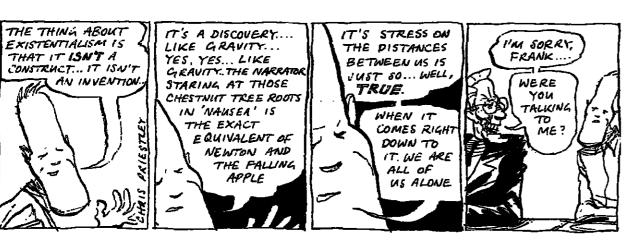
Meanwhile, it may be possible for her lawyers to win permission from Judge Zobel for temporary access to her passport at least to leave the state for Christmas. Woodward is currently lodging at the home of Elaine Whitfield Sharp, also on the defence team. in a seaside suburb north of Had the stay been granted. Boston, Both her parents have returned to England. Friends said she was filling her time trying to make friends, reading supporters'

letters and going to a local gym.

— Dovid Usborne, Boston

7.30 FOR 8

by Chris Priestley



ZITS

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



Diana's memorial committee is named

Earl Spencer will attend meetings of the newly formed Diana, Princess of Wales. Memorial Committee when he is in Britain, although he is not a member, the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, said

The 10-strong committee, headed by Mr Brown, includes film maker Lord Attenborough (who introduced Diana to the anti-landmines campaign which became her highest-profile charity work), Diana's sister Lady Sarah McCorquodale, her butler Paul Burrell, the Princess's friend Rosa Monckton. divorce solicitor Anthony Julius, former overseas development minister Baroness Chalker and Lord Chamberlain, Lord Airlie, who represents the Roval Household. Comic Relief co-founder and charity worker Jane Tewson is also a committee member. along with Diane Louise Jordan, an ex-Blue Peter television presenter.

The committee will consider possible memorials of the late Princess, who died in a Paris car crash nearly three months ago. Mr Brown said 7,000 proposals for memorials had been received from members

Diana, Princess of Wales, was greatly loved, and I consider it an honour to have been asked by the Prime Minister to chair this important committee," he said. "The public have responded magnificently to my request for proposals for commemorating the work of the Princess of Wales. Every one of the 7,000 proposals so far has been carefully read and every one will be taken into account."

The committee will be assisted by an advisory group of representatives from all the main political parties and by a further group drawn from the charities which the Princess supported. Membership of these groups will be announced shortly.

THE GRRRAND PRIX GRRRAHAM'S **PORT** THE PORT OF AUTHORITY

UPDATE

INDUSTRY

Post Office comes under attack

The Post Office has been given a stamp of disapproval from consumer watch-dogs as it prepares to handle more than 2.2 billion letters in the run up to Christmas. Postmen have been accused of putting parcels at risk from thieves, giving bad advice and not redirecting letters efficiently enough.

Which? magazine posted 60 parcels in a survey to test the delivery service. Only three people out of 22 who were out when their parcels arrived were left a note saying where it had been left – and eight of those were left in places easily accessible to thieves. In a test of Post Office staff's knowledge, 23 out of 60 offices gave inadequate advice on insuring parcels. More than one-third of the staff also gave incorrect information about how long delivery would take. The £6-a-month service for redirecting mail was tested by nine people: of the letters posted first class 15 never arrived, 10 were sent to the old address, and 11 took four or more days to arrive.

Which? assistant editor, Malcolm Coles, said: "With no close competitors, the Post Office has little incentive to change." he said a regulator was needed to set and enforce standards of advice and delivery. A Post Office spokesman said it was "nonsense" to say it faced no competition; the Royal Mail competed with fax, telephones, electronic mail, and couriers; Parcelforce with 4,000 parcel companies and other mail-shot firms; and the Counter network with banks, building societies and other retailers.

ENVIRONMENT

Junk food scores on energy-efficiency

Meat eaters and junk-food addicts are more politically correct than healthy vegetarians when it comes to helping the environment, it was claimed yesterday. A survey of energy used to produce and distribute food found that meat, sweets, ice cream, potato chips and white bread were among the most efficient and least polluting. Salad vegetables, tomatoes, high-ibre cereals, fruit, white fish, tea and coffee, were more harmful to the environment.

David Coley and colleagues at the Centre for Energy and the Environment at Exeter University analysed how much energy from fuel was used in the production cycle of food in a typical shopping basket, New Scienus magazine reported. Taking into account the manufacture and application of fertilisers and other chemicals, harvesting, processing, packaging, transport and waste disposal, the diets of more than 2,000 people used 18,000 megajoules (MJ) of energy each year - almost six times the energy locked in the food itself. The most energy-wasteful item was coffee, which required 177 MJ of energy to produce one MJ of food intake. Typical salad vegetables required 45 MJ and white fish 36, compared with just 8 ML for beef and burgers, 7 for chicken, and 6 for lamb. While fresh fruit consumed between 10 and 22 MJ, sweets, crisps, white bread and ice cream were right at the bottom of the table using less than one MI each. "Food is a large part of an individual's impact on the greenhouse effect," Mr Coley said.



TOURISM

Visitors set to break record

The number of overseas tourists visiting Britain reached almost 20 million in the first nine months of this year, it was announced yesterday. The Office for National Statistics said that a surge in numbers in September took the running total to 19.98 million, boosted by a major influx from North America, where visitor numbers are so far up 11 per cent this year.

The near 20 million figure is 2 per cent up on the January-September 1996 total and last year's record annual figure of nearly 26 million is expected to be beaten. The number of visitors from western Europe rose slightly in September, reaching 1.49 million compared with 1.47 million in September. 1996 - but, mainly due to the strong pound, their numbers this year are 1 per cent down. So far this year overseas visitors have spent £9.64bn - 2 per cent more than January-September 1996.

The ONS also said 15.5 million visits were made abroad by UK residents in July-September, 1997 - up from 14.03 million for 1996.

HEALTH

Obesity linked to hormone

A team of Scottish scientists investigating weight control have made a break through in the fight against obesity, it has been revealed. Researchers from Aberdeen University have identified specific brain cells which are receptive to signals from a hormone called leptin which controls food intake and body weight. Their ground-breaking research, published for the first time in the science journal Nature, explains that the brain signals which alert us as to when we are satiated with food and can eat no more may be dysfunctional in obese people. The researchers believe that, having shown how leptin works and having identified the endpoint of the brain cell which activates the "full up" signal, they will be able to develop a safe drug to by-pass the defective system within the glucose responsive cells of the brain. They said clinical trials could be under way in five or six years.

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Australia (dollars) Austria (schillings) Belgium (francs) Canada (\$) Cyprus (pounds) Denmark (kroner) France (francs) Germany (marks) Greece (drachmei) Hong Kong (\$)	2.40 20.39 59.97 2.32 0.84 II.II 9.71 2.91 463.61 12.63	Italy (lira) Japan (yen) Malta (lira) Netherlands (guilders Norway (kroner) Portugal (escudos) Spain (pesetas) Sweden (kroner) Switzerland (francs) Turkey (lira)	2,856 214.18 0.63 3.26 11.82 294.51 244.96 12.78 2.35 320.866		Take Those Take a Take a
Ireland (punts)	1.10	U\$A (\$)	1.64 Jource: Thomas Cool		

'Better a philistine who can add up than this incompetent lot of buffs and ballet lovers'

The Government last night promised "planned change" to the running of the Royal Opera House following a damning report by a Commons select committee. David Lister, arts news editor, examines MPs' accusations of mismanagement and

The chairman, chief executive and board should resign "with immediate effect". A financially acute "philistine" should be appointed to run the show. If the board and chief executive don't resign, the Government should cut off all public money.

That is the staggering conclusion of the Culture, Media and Sport select committee inquiry into the Royal Opera House. The language is colourful, the analysis damning, the recommendations dramatic. And the invective left senior figures at the ROH shaking in disbelief.

The committee meanwhile expressed its own disbelief at the business practices of the ROH which meant that no balance sheets or cash flows could be produced for them. The committee was also highly critical of the previous Covent Garden regime headed by Sir Jeremy Isaacs.

Yesterday Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, broke precedent by reacting immediately to a select committee report.

He said he shared the committee's view "that substantial changes are now required", but added: "I am concerned that overnight and precipitate change, either in the management of the Royal Opera House or by an instant withdrawal by the Arts Council of fianneial support for the Royal Opera House, would in fact endanger your and my underlying objectives. I am anxious that planned change should now

It seems unlikely that Mr Smith will preempt the inquiry being undertaken by Sir Richard Eyre into the ROH. Sir Richard will not report until next May.

letter, published in today's Independent today, supporting Mary Allen, their chief executive, who is vilified in the report. Neither Ms Allen, nor Lord Chadlington, her chairman, intend to resign over the re-

Ms Allen said: "I entirely reject the criticisms in the Committee's report of my conduct at the time of my appointment in May this year." Referring to how she was made chief executive without the post being advertised, when she was at the time chief executive of the ROH's funding body, she a philistine with the requisite financial acusaid: "If it was a mistake, it was an honest

The committee, chaired by Gerald Kaufman, recommends that Mr Smith Royal Opera House for the two year reommendation which Mr Smith has so ers' money in the last five years, we are as-



Staff at Covent Garden have written a clearly and quickly rejected. "Should the tonished that the Arts Council seems to about arrangements made by Sir Jeremy board and the chief executive decline to accept the committee's recommendation that they resign, we recommend the Secretary of State make clear to the Arts Council that he expects them to cease payments of grant-in-aid to the Royal Opera House forthwith," the report continues - a further recommendation which was effectively dismissed by the Secretary of State.

> The report says: "The administrator must be chosen for his or her business skills; we would prefer to see the House run by men than by the succession of opera and ballet lovers who have brought a great and valuable institution to its knees.

The ROH is accused of "incompeappoint an administrator to take the place tence", "disastrous mismanagement" and of the board and the chief executive of the "a deplorable lack of financial information". mainder of the closure period - the rec- ROH has received £98 million of taxpay- House and its companies.

have expressed no concern at this state of affairs. There is no future for the Royal Opera House unless someone accepts responsibility for the sorry train of events we have described. In addition, we question the vigilance of the Charity Commission-

But it is Mary Allen, who this summer took up the post from her previous job as Arts Council general secretary without a formal selection process, or the post being advertised, who is singled out for particular criticism. The report says: "We found Ms Allen's convoluted explanation of ber actions entirely unconvincing."

The committee, whose report was unanimous, recommended that the "inappropriate" Ms Allen be removed from Sir It says: "In the light of the fact that the looking into the future of the Royal Opera

The select committee was scathing

House's current crisis."

Isaacs and Sir Angus Stirling, his chairman, for the closure period. "The disastrous misjudgements made

then meant that the companies were condemned to a nomadic option which could have been avoided and which shows signs of being financially disastrous," the report

"The failures of the board in 1995 are esponsible in considerable measure for the

Letters, page 20 tened - and put them up. - David Lister

thi∫ time

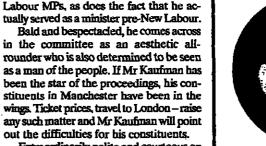
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IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT

Film and pop in your 32 page Eye on Friday



How did he get it so wrong?



Extraordinarily polite and courteous on the surface, there is a harsher layer beneath. Hence the frequent sotto voce interjections which can be devastating. When told how Genista McIntosh resigned from the Royal Opera House as chief executive because of ill health but was then seen on an Arts Council trip to Nottingham, he almost ighed: "Her health appears to fluctuate."

The Kaufman

show takes

centre stage

Full of fire, invective, mischievous wit and knowledgeable analysis, the select com-

mittee report reflects its author. Presiding

over the weekly sessions of inquiry Gerald

Kaufman has turned a parliamentary for-

Sport select committees and you will learn

a little more each time about Mr Kaufman.

At the inquiry into the Millennium Dome

this week. Peter Mandelson made a pre-

diction but ended his sentence with the

words "touch wood". The Tories seized on

this apparent slip. "Ah," ruled Mr Kaufman,

"anyone remotely connected with the Jew-

ish religion knows you end nearly every sen-

The 67-year-old Mr Kaufman is a film

buff, more likely to be seen at the National

Film Theatre than the Royal Opera House,

but certain to be seen regularly at both. This

makes him a pretty rare bird among senior

tence with the words 'touch wood'."

Go to any of the Culture, Media and

mality into the best show in town.

Those who know Kaufman well are not surprised. "There is a difference between the public and private faces," said one longtime colleague. "He can be absolutely brutal behind the scenes, effective but brutal."

As chairman, Mr Kaufman will be listened to by ministers. But no one should assume that his wishes become reality. A few years ago his committee was scathing about CD prices. The record companies lis-



THE EYE



Hollywood star THE EYE

Mark E. Smith: after The Fall THE EYE

CAST OF CHARACTERS IN A COVENT GARDEN DRAMA



SIR JEREMY ISAACS

He left the Royal Opera House with a knighthood and an contract giving him £10,000 a month for nearly a year after he departed But Sir Jeremy was the man behind the dosure plans. enticised by the committee as "abysmal", and he and ling oversaw many of the managerial structures that the new regime inherited. He worked hard at ROH to end restrictive union practices and build up the plants of underfunding as the root of all problems are undermined by anticisms of him in the report.



MARY ALLEN A former actress who once

appeared in The Rocky Hor-ror Show, she must think she is now living it. She ran the Watermans Arts Centre in the Arts Council where she was thought to be an effecthe manner of her move to the Royal Opera House - a post not advertised shocked many including her Arts Council chairman. Lord Gowne, who rued afterwards that he had "bonded too closely with her". Her management skills which are already beginning to put the ROH fi-nances in order might yet see her through this crisis.



LORD CHADLINGTON

biggest public relations the @8m grant to the der Labour are not good.



er of John Selwyn and head of Shandwick, one of the firms nd a former adviser to the Tory party, Smooth man of the ROH, he too charge of the Arts Council lottery fund. Chris Smith will not lightly forgive his buildozing him into accepting the Mary Allen appointment. Lond Chadlington says he is determined to continue at the ROH, but the odds of a long stay un-



VIVIEN DUFFIELD

Aka Peter Gummer, broth-The heress daughter of the businessman Charles Core, the founder of the old chief fund raiser at the ROH is the best in hers has been one of the most powerful voices in Covent Garden, and in warning that sponsors and other Covent Garden regulars would not follow Hammersmith and other been proved right. The select committee goes out of its way to exclude



LORD GOWRIE

Tory arts minister before resigning because it did not pay well enough. A director of Sotheby's, he was the chairman of the Arts Coun ol when the ROH got its massive grant and anticipated a backlash against lottery awards to high-art institutions by maling sure the ROH got in first. He was "gobsmacked" when Mary Allen left for the ROH, and said afterwards he regretted "bond-ing too closely with my chief executive." He will quit the Arts Council for

reasons unrelated to the

opera house inquiry.

i could really do With a The earl who grew up at Windsor Castle and was a MONTH

Get one month's free line rental when you connect at a in December.

Fancy some time off for Christmas? exciting offers this Christmas: Fo Well, exclusively at Vodafone shops details visit your local Vodafon this December, when you connect we'll or call us direct on 0800 to 11 give you a whole month's line rental over 250 shops nationwide taking absolutely free. It's just one of our many off has never been easier

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Diana's lawyers try to block TV film

The lawyers who are trying to the lawyers' move as "outratrademark the image of Diana, geous". Princess of Wales, are attempting to block the production of a TV film about her life.

Mishcon de Reya has threatened legal action against Mirfor Television over its attempts on behalf of Diana's estate and ourselves. to make a film called "People's her Memorial Fund. The firm Princess" without permission from Diana's estate.

But Kelvin MacKenzie, Mirror Television's managing director and executive producer of the film, said the project would go ahead and described

It is the first show of strength

by Mishcon after its announcement this week that it rights to images of the Princess. is also attempting to secure Princess of Wales". It says it is attempting to stop any future misuse, exploitation or com-

mercialisation. The lawyers said in a letter to the producers: "It has been brought to our attention that you intend to produce a film entitled 'People's Princess'.

"No one has sought perhad applied for trademark mission from Kensington Palace, the Spencer family or ter the break-up of her marriage "You will appreciate that a

film like this, produced so soon rights on the words "Diana, after the untimely death of both enters the Paris underpass. the Princess and Dodi Al Fayed, is entirely inappropriate and insensitive not only to their memories but also to their families." The planned £1.5m film is a

production for L!VE TV, whose programmes include topless darts, the "News Bunny" the weather in Norwegian.

The film portrays Diana's search for personal happiness afand fulfilment in her public role, despite harassment by the paparazzi. It ends as a Mercedes

Mr MacKenzie said the film would be a "tribute" to the late Princess and would be a story that "should and will be told".



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THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER 1997

5/LAW AND ORDER

Can Labour rid the streets of our fear of crime?

The Home Secretary published his flagship Bill to tackie crime and disorder. Anti-social behaviour, sex offenders and youth crime are among his targets. Michael Streeter, Legal Affairs Correspondent, assesses the proposals.

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Jack Straw said yesterday that the yardstick to judge the Crime and Disorder Bill is whether it makes people feel "safer" in their communities.

Introducing a range of measures aimed at tackling the "anti-social" behaviour that leads to crime, Mr Straw said he wanted to shift the balance away from those elements undermining communities, such as youth gangs and problem neighbours.

"It is about giving power back to law-abiding people in society," he said.

The Bill's emphasis on controlling anti-social behaviour reinforces the Government's commitment to "zero-tolerance" policing, despite doubts raised this week in Cleveland, where the approach has been adonted.

A senior officer and main architect of the policy was suspended amid allegations of mis-



extended periods of supervision for sexual and violent offenders on their release from prison. Judges who feel that a convicted sex or violent offender may and violence five years. Police not be adequately dealt with will also be able to apply to magthrough being let out on licence istrates for orders against A key measure introduces during their sentence can im- known sex offenders they feel

pose an "extension" sentence of are a threat to the public. The close supervision on the of-Bill, which should come into fender. For sexual offences the force next autumn, also creates period will be for up to 10 years. a new series of "racially aggravated" offences, including assaults, harassment and public order offences. The offences will attract higher sentences .

Officials believe this will provide incentive for the police and prosecutors to unearth any racial motive behind crimes. Many parts of the Bill have been heavily trailed, including

parenting orders to provide

counselling sessions, enforce-

behaviour - backed by five-year jail sentences - child curfews, final warnings and detention and training orders for young offenders. An unusual proposal is to al-

able orders against anti-social

low remand hearings and oth-

er pre-trial hearings - where a defendant is in custody but not required by the court to attend the hearing - to be conducted through live television links beween courts and prisons.

Many in the crime prevention business believe the most Age of anxiety: Mr Straw said that his Bill is about giving power back to people in society' Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

important provision is the new duty - included despite initial police opposition - on forces and local authorities to draw up crime reduction strategies in their areas.

Although the overall package will cost an estimated £120m a year to implement. ministers believe that it can save £180m from the prison bill through the electronic tagging and early release of 6,000 prisoners annually. Some experts think the final savings could be even higher, with an overall annual reduction in prison numbers potentially up to 7,000.

The measures will need 600 new probation officers to supervise sex offenders and violent criminals in the community following their release from prison. Alongside the Bill, the Court of Appeal will issue new guidelines on sentencing to ensure greater consistency in the way offenders are dealt with.

Many of the proposed schemes will be piloted before they apply nationally and the full impact of the measures should kick in by April 1999 - given them two years to have an impact before the next general

Jury still out as America debates success of teenage curfews

Curfews aimed at keeping teenagers off the streets have angered civil liberties groups in the United States. But, as David Usbome finds out, most politicians and police chiefs like them.

have imposed strict curfews on teenagers in an effort to cut down on juvenile crime.

The rising popularity of the curfews among politicians and police chiefs is recorded in a new survey of 347 different US cities, each with populations of 30,000 or more, released this week by the US Conference of

The report found that 276 of those cities now have curfews in place, a marked increase com-

ducted two years ago. Those cities said that juvenile crime had fallen by an average of 21 per cent since the curfews were put in place. In one case, it had dropped by 50 per cent.

The number of urban curfews in the US has been multiplying for several years and has coincided with a general hardening of attitudes towards More US cities than ever before crime. So far, however, none of the largest cities, like New York or Los Angeles, have attempted them.

Not all the cities surveyed voiced satisfaction with the experiment. A minority reported that youth crime had in fact increased since the curfews were enacted. Others complained that they were difficult and

costly to implement. Typically, the curfew laws require children of 18 years or under to be off the streets and in

pared with the last survey, con-their homes from 11 pm to bam. Violations are usually punishable by fines of up to \$500. Often a city will stipulate that parents of the children must pay the fines. Advocates of the curfews say this encourages parents to take greater responsibility.

> The toughest of the laws also extend the curfews to day time hours. In an attempt to reduce school truancy, children are barred from public places during regular school hours. Attempts by some cities to

impose curfews have been thwarted by constitutional challenges. The American Civil Liberties Union argues that they violate the Bill of Rights.

Nor are all criminologists convinced of their value. "Curfews are a quick solution that don't do much," argues James Fox of Northeastern University in Boston. "They take up a lot of resources for little return."

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its very own 350k square pixel CCD, which means your pictures can be transferred to your computer with absolute minimal loss of image quality. And the Dimâge V unlike most other digital

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Innocent man freed after 25 years in jail for murder

A soldier who spent 25 years in jail for murder had his conviction quashed. It is thought to be the longest period served by someone wrongly convicted. Michael Streeter, Legal Affairs Correspondent, considers the problems of adjusting to freedom and modern society.

When Andrew Evans was convicted of murdering a 14-year-old schoolgirl, Ted Heath was prime minister and decimal currency was still a novelty.

Yesterday, Mr Evans who was just 17 when he was supposed to have battered Judith Roberts to death - was thrust back into the late 20th century after the Court of Appeal ruled that his conviction was unsafe and unreliable.

Campaigners for Mr Evans have now arranged for him to go to special safe accommodation and undergo counselling to come to terms his

Taking his first steps as a free man for quarter of a century , he said : "For more than 25 years I have been held responsible for a crime I did not commit. Today is the first step to a life beyond injustice."

His solicitor Kate Akester, of the human rights campaign group Justice, criticised the Home Office for not offering a very different world now, reimmediate compensation for



Not guilty: Andrew Evans after being freed yesterday

Mr Evans, whose rehabilitation is being funded through private donations. Describing the case as one of the most disturbing miscarriages of justice in recent times, where the legal process had exploited a vulnerable young man, she added: "We are calling for urgent changes to the arrangements for compensation in

such cases. Experts yesterday warned that Mr Evans' process of adapting from the regimented world of prison would be a long one. Dr James Thompson, a director of the Traumatic Stress Clinic, said people had to be convinced they could make decisions for themselves. Changes in society since 1973 would also need to be assimilated. "It is

riving in a new society.' At the time of Judith's

murder in Tamworth, Staffordshire, in June 1972. Mr Evans - described as having had an unhappy childhood was a soldier serving at Whittington Barracks just outside Lichfield. He was discharged on medical grounds and in October 1972 police called at his grandmother's house to ask him further questions over claims he had made about being in the barracks at the time of the killing.

... It's like an immigrant ar-

He was later questioned at Tamworth police station and repeated that he did not know if he had killed the victim but kept seeing visions of her.

Later, as he waited for trial, experts became convinced he was suffering from amnesia – an unconscious mental mechanism by which painful events are obliterated from the memory - and a "truth drug" was administered before he made statements.

Lord Bingham said: "Judged by the rules and standards of today, the conduct of this investigation by the police left much to be desired.

"The appellant was not cautioned as and when he should have been, as is accepted by the Crown; he was not seen by a doctor when he first appeared at the police station, although it is clear that by current standards medical attention was urgently required: he was not offered the assistance of a solicitor."

A confession had been the quiring different sorts of skills sole reason for his conviction.

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Official tries to reassure Women over smear scare

A woman has developed cervical cancer after a smear taken more than three years ago was misread, health officials disclosed yesterday. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, reports on another setback for the NHS cervical

screening service

Almost 4,000 smears screened at the Royal Berkshire Hospital between 1992 and 1994 have had to be re-checked after a woman was diagnosed with cervical cancer.

Six women with suspicious smears that were originally overlooked have been invited back for colpscopy examination (a visual check of the cervix with a microscope) and an-

other 65 are being advised to have a repeat smear. The incident is the latest to

The incident is the latest to beset the troubled NHS cervical screening service. Last month, Warwickshire health authority announced that 18,000 smears were being rechecked.

Berkshire health authori-

ty said the review applied to the work of one screener whose work was first investigated in 1994 after concerns were raised about the screener's performance.

In that investigation one in ten of the smears reported to be negative by the screener were checked, in line with the guidelines which applied at the time.

The conclusion of the in-

vestigation was that the screener's performance was "within acceptable standards". However, the screener

transferred to other duties and

CLOSE MCDORMAND COLLINS BLANCHETT

"A powerful ensemble performance..."

"Epic stuff"

smear she had passed, in line with the new guidelines applying today. This disclosed the extra

never returned to screening.

cancer came to light last

month, the authority decided

on a further review of the

same screener's work which in-

volved checking every negative

After the case of cervical

misread smears.

Dr Gary Bolger, acting director of public health, said:
"We fully recognise that this is a worrying time for those women directly affected.

"Our objective has been to ensure they are followed up as quickly as possible and are given additional support and counselling if needed."

He said it was important that women retained confidence in the cervical screening programme. "I would like to reassure women that the laboratory at the Royal Berk-

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SHAFTESBURY AVE AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS OF STORY OF STORY

Courage echoes forever.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DRIVING MISS DAISY

shire Hospital is of a high standard. It meets all the nationally recommended targets for detecting abnormal smears and is overseen by a regional quality assurance programme.

A spokesman for the authority said that under new national quality control standards introduced this year, all smears are now subject to a rapid rescreen in which the findings of the primary screener are checked. Previously, only one in ten smears were rescreened.

In addition the spokesman said a new system to monitor the individual performance of screeners was now in place at the hospital.

The health authority said yesterday that only women who had had a smear test between January 1992 and January 1994 and had not had a smear test since were affected by the review.



Bargain basement: Grace Trehan outside the eight-bedroomed house in Oxford that she putting up for grabs.

Photograph: Tom Pilston

£600,000 house on offer at £105

Why would anyone want to buy a £600,000 Edwardian house for £105? It sounds a silly question, but it is precisely the one posed by an Oxfordshire woman who is selling her former home. Answers on a postcard—and it could be yours.

Grace Trehan is not bothering with estate agents. Instead she has devised a competition which, she hopes, will simultaneously raise £32,500 for homeless charities and £600,000 for the owners of the property. The prize – an eight bedroom Edwardian house in north Oxford – is, as it were, inbuilt.

Entrants must simply write a cheque for £105 and write between 50 and 75 words describing "why they need the house". The entries will be judged by an independent panel which will be looking for "an interesting, personal, persuasive account of why winning the house is so important".

The deadline has been set as 31 December with the winner due to be announced on 12 January. However, if the 6,500 entries needed to make the competition work are not collected by then, the date will be postponed a couple of months. £5 of every entry will go towards the unnamed homeless charities and after the £600,000 is raised for the owner any extra entry money will go to charity.

"I suddenly realised it would be much quicker to sell a house of this value by running a competition which offered the chance of a lifetime to the lucky winner," explained Mrs Trehan.

"So I volunteered my help and devised the contest, which is not a lottery or a raffle, but a competition of skill, in the hope that some of my favourite charities can benefit at the same time."

It is, she feels, well worth a gamble. "Some people spend that much when they go out with friends for dinner, or bet that much in a month or two on the lottery where the odds are about eight million to one to win," she said.

The semi-detached house, which is called Belmor, has a reception hall room. together with an additional 12 rooms, plus two kitchens and five bathrooms. The garden is walled and includes a fish pond, waterfall and fountain.

Mrs Trehan would like the house to go to "people who really need it." The idea of it being turned into a homeless hostel would be "really wonderful", she said. Sadly, however, this is not much of a clue. She is not on the panel of judges.

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A female Church of Scotland minister who was accused of having an affair with a married church elder has agreed to resign.

The Rev Helen Percy, 32, minister for six parishes in Angus, Perthshire, also agreed to seek counselling, and she will not now be liable for a church trial. However, she could regain her position in the future if the Church's General Assembly believes she is able to resume her duties.

The allegations of sexual misconduct came to light when a woman wrote to the Moderator of the Presbytery of Angus, claiming that Miss Percy was having an affair with her 52-year-old son. She was suspended in July, but it was not until last month that she admitted the affair.

Spencers divorced

The Earl and Countess Spencer were granted their divorce yesterday at the end of a six-minute court hearing in Cape Town.

Lady Spencer was not in court to hear the final rites as Lord Spencer, 33, went into the witness box to declare that the marriage

had broken down irretrievably.

Details of the settlement thrashed out on Monday were released after the hearing and revealed that Lady Spencer is to get a clean-break settlement of £1.8m. Drug experts say Prozac is not addictive

A claim that the anti-depressant drug. Prozac, could be addictive was rejected yesterday by the Government body that licenses drugs in Britain. The Medicines Commission

dismissed as "flawed" a report by Charles Medawar, director of Social Audit, claiming "overwhelming evidence" that Prozac and similar anti-depressants known as SSRIs (selective serotonin uptake inhibitors) caused problems of dependence as great as tranquillisers such as Valium.

Mr Medawar says doctors have been led to believe that withdrawal reactions are very rare and that they may be mistaking the psychic distress caused by drug withdrawal for relapse. In the same way that they did with benzodiazepines like Valium 25 years ago.

The commission said withdrawal reactions had been noted with the SSRIs but they were rare and not associated with other symptoms of dependence. — Jeremy Laurance

Students strike in fees protest

Thousands of students at Edinburgh University failed to appear at classes yesterday in a protest strike against the introduction of fuition fees.

Organisers of the event estimated that just 15 per cent of the university's 17,000 students attended lectures, forcing many departments to abandon work for the day. The history department was also closed in support of the day of action.

A spokeswoman for the university denied, however, that there had been major disruption to classes.

About 5,000 postcards protesting against the imposition of fees were signed by students and staff members, and will be delivered to 10 Downing Street.

Top-class shelter

Homeless young people will swap the pavements for the comfort of a posh London address thanks to a scheme which got the go-ahead yesterday.

Westminster Council has given the Calinet Office permission to transform Admiralty Arch, at the corner of Trafalgar Square, into a hostel for the homeless this winter. Renovation of the S6-year-old building is expected to be completed in time for the hostel to open later this month.



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Farmers join fightback after latest 'body blow'

The announcement was, as one British farmer put it, 'a body blow to an industry on its knees'. As farmers across England and Scotland began following Wales's lead and fighting back in the manner of French lorry drivers, Tony Heath and Clare Gamer listened to their anger at the latest beef ban.

Farmers last night stepped up their campaign to prevent the importation of foreign beef and staged demonstrations in protest against the Government's latest ban on sales of beef on the bone because of BSE fears.

As farmers began driving tractors and trailers through Newton Abbot in Devon in protest at cheap imports, others reacted with anger and disbelief to the latest blow to hit the industry. Richard Barter,

who has 127 cattle on his farm at Bovey Tracey in south Devon, said: "This could be the end of the line. The cost of boning is going to be put back on to the

Mr Barter, who said his family had been farming in the area since 1300, added: "We are not making any money now, how are we going to cope?"

David Hill, who rears 400 animals on his north Devon farm. said he was "astonished" by the announcement.

"What concerns me primarily is that I am told 5 per cent of meat is currently on the bone. That does not sound a lot, but the announcement is bound to spread uncertainty in the mind of the housewife who is already confused as to whether to buy beef," he said.

It would lead to lower heef sales which were already at a level where he knew he could not make a profit in the coming year, he added.

While Ron Davies, the Secretary of State for Wales, was holding crisis talks with leaders allow the departure of three lor-



of the Farmers' Union of Wides and the National Farmers' Union in London, more than 200 Welsh farmers blockaded the west Wales port of Fishguard in an effort to stop Irish beef reaching the British market. When the ferry from Rosslare docked they refused to

Republic. The vehicles were reloaded for the ferry's return

Earlier, six vehicles carrying Irish meat were met by more than 500 farmers blockading Holyhead, in Wales, They were refused entry - as was a seventh vehicle because although it was

ries carrying produce from the - transporting fruit the forry was owned by a haulier who transports meat.

> A meeting late last night near the Anglesey port was predicted to attract up to 1,000

It is becoming clear that since the first protest on Sunday night, when 40 tonnes of ling a demonstration at Stran-

Irish beefburgers were thrown into Holyhead harbour, tarmers believe that conventional channels are failing to resolve problems claimed to threaten cheap imports should be hapthe whole fabric of rural Wales.

Meanwhile, the Scots were following suit. Beef producers in Scotland were last night stag-

raer, an entry port for heef from Ireland. The protest was organised by Wigtown farmers who say it is an "outrage" that pening in "Europe's so-called

George Lyon, vice-president of the the National Farmers' Union of Scotland, accompa-

Single Market ..

Taking the high road: A convoy of tractors block the main street in Newton Abbot, Devon, yesterday Photograph: Richard Austin

nied other senior officials and union members at the demonstration. He said: "Our members in the south-west of Scotland have had to bear the sight of fleets of lorries carrying Irish imports into Scotland.

"Our hands are tied behind our backs and these cheap imports are underpinned by aid from the Irish government and the European Commission."

Elsewhere, farmers picketed supermarkets at Wrexham and Middlewich in Cheshire, while at Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, more than 200 farmers succeeded in turning back three refrigerated lorries which contained chicken and dairy products but not beef.

The supermarket chain Tesco reacted to the Government announcement by withdrawing all fresh beef products

on the bone from the shelves. Andrew Batty, the company's commercial director, said customers who had nurchased any fresh beef would be offered

"Our first priority is our customers and Tesco meat is produced to the highest standards available.

"We are taking this action immediately to demonstrate our commitment to the safety of the products we sell," he said.

Chefs enraged by restriction say quality cooking will suffer

Britain's leading restaurateurs expressed outrage last night about the Government's ban on beef sold on the bone, claiming it will destroy some of our greatest culinary traditions, writes Nicole Yeash.

14 July 19 --

It was a sad day for quality cooking, gourmet chef Michel Roux said. The owner of the Michelin two-star restaurant Le Gavroche told The Independent that: "All the beef I buy is hung on the bone because it is so much better to cook with - nothing else ever tastes quite the same. The bone can be removed after cooking, but not before because you just lose all the flavour."

Most chefs say that they prefer beef on the bone because it maintains joint succulence and tenderises the meat. They also use beef or veal bones when making stock, which is then added to an extensive range of dishes, including risotto.

"Without doubt this will affect my cooking," Mr Roux said. "It is a real shame for food lovers everywhere, especially as we still sell an awful lot of beef."

Raymond Blanc, celebrity chef and owner of Le Manoir Aux Quat Saisons, said: "This ban is so ridiculous it enrages me. Banning beef on the bone substitute."

the rate of 2,000 tons a week.

. Jeff Rooker, the agriculture

ing made to speed up the dis-

being used for storage.

backing.

Mr Rooker gave an assur-

ance that there would be no cut-

ting of corners to speed up the

planning process and reduce

the beef and bonemeal moun-

tain by allowing more inciner-

"No decisions have yet been

taken on other major disposal

Options, including burning meat

mountain grows

meal from cattle culled under protection of the environment

the 30-month scheme to erad- and human health in making leate BSE would be as high as any decisions. The Govern-

36 Big Bens and is growing at ment will not cut corners in this

minister, said efforts were be- which were perfectly healthy

posal of the bonemeal after BSE had been slaughtered un-

protests by Labour MPs over der the 30-month scheme, Mr health fears from constituents Rooker told MPs. It had re-

living near hangars which are sulted in 150,000 tons of tallow

ators to be built to deal with the Big Bens," he said. "It is a very

and bonemeal in power stations. storage. But he said there would

is like banning tomatoes from

"It will undoubtedly put a stop to tradition and prevent the practice of cooking as a achieve excellence with these negative rules?"

at City Rhodes - owned by ready withdrawn T-bone television star Gary Rhodes also mourned the passing of ery fare. "I am absolutely able to cook Gary's classic



Raymond Blanc: Furious at 'ridiculous' ban

braised oxtail dish again," he said. "It was always so popular with customers and you will never be able to achieve that taste with any other

A stockpile of meat and bone- Full weight will be given to the be an investigation into alleged

A total of 1.9 million cattle

and not showing any signs of

and 280,000 tons of meat and

bonemeal in stores around the

about 2,000 tons a week. To give

members some idea of the vol-

ume, it is the equivalent of 36

BSE-infected meat and bone-

meal was incinerated without

The minister stressed that

considerable volume."

"It's growing at the rate of

country awaiting disposal.

Health fears as bonemeal

exercise," he said.

The ban is also set to hit restaurants at the other end of the culinary scale. Americantheme restaurants - who have made T-bone steaks and rack craft. How will we ever of beef ribs fashionable again -along with traditional British steak houses will be affected. Wayne Tapsfield, head chef The Beefeater chain has al-

steaks from their menu. Many supermarkets, inmuch-loved traditional cook- cluding Tesco. Marks & Spencer and Waitrose - which shocked that we won't be sell less than 5 per cent boned beef between them - have cleared the offending products from the shelves.

A spokesman for Marks & Spencer said: "We only ever sell two beef products which have bone in them and the ribs are only on sale nearer Christmas. However, we have withdrawn both from sale and we will have to cancel Christmas orders for the rib of beef as a

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food also confirmed that the ban extends to stock cubes and gravy granules, including the Sunday dinner stalwart, the Oxo cube.

Helen Park, spokeswoman for Oxo, said: "Our cubes do contain ground beef bone. but it is from Sweden, a country where there has never been had a reported case of BSE [bovine spongiform encephalopathy].

Obviously in the light of this announcement we will be seeking to consult industry and consumer groups before coning to any decision about the future of the Oxo cube."

breaches of storage licences

raised by Swindon MPs, led by

of bonemeal close to residents

in hangars that were infested

with rats and open to the

victims of CJD and the eco-

nomic crisis BSE has caused for farmers are well known ... But

we all must recognise that the

general public remain worried

about the consequences for

experts to satisfy themselves

there are no public health risks.

The public need to be reassured

this is the case," Michael Wills.

"It is simply not adequate for

The desperate plight of the

Julia Drown, Labour MP for South Swindon, at the storage

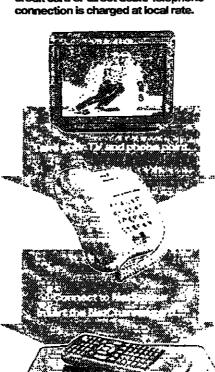
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the Labour MP for Swindon — Çolin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

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Nuns and members of the public at a service at Nottingham Cathedral yesterday to mark the return of the remains of Mary Photograph: David Rose Potter, who founded the C. der of the Little Company of Mary in Nottingham in 1877

Hotlines to keep patients away

Emergency admissions to hospital are rising at 1,000 a day yet at least a quarter of the patients involved do not need to be there. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, looks at new ways of keeping NHS beds empty.

Hot lines for patients and GPs who need emergency advice and training for ambulance staff to discriminate among 999 callers are being tried by NHS trusts in an effort to curb the soaring number of emergency admissions.

The NHS Confederation said hospitals around the country were

struggling against the rising tide of emergencies and warned that a flu epidemic, or sustained cold spell. could put the health service under intolerable pressure this winter. Last December, emergency admissions rose 37 per cent compared with December 1995.

Stephen Thornton, chief executive of the confederation, which represents health authorities and trusts, said the extra £300m for the NHS this year, announced by the Government in the autumn, might be too little. "It is going to be a tough winter and we don't know if it will be enough to get us through. The NHS needs to be properly resourced with long-term funding. not short-term handouts."

A report by a working party of

the confederation and the Royal College of Physicians, published vesterday, says that emergency hospital admissions rose 9.9 per cent in the four years from 1991-92 to 1994-95, an increase of 335,000, equivalent to an extra 920 a day. As with previous inquiries

no single cause was found for the rise which is attributed to a combination of social, medical and professional factors. The decline of the extended family, the high divorce rate and the growth in people living alone are all thought to increase the likelihood of emergency admissions.

Professor Michael Shepherd. chairman of the working party, said evidence suggested that 20-25 per cent of patients admitted to hospital could be cared for more appropriately in their own homes or elsewhere. Some estimates have put the figure as high as 40 per cent.

At King's College hospital in south London, patients can phone an emergency line to discuss their problem with a specially trained nurse who can advise them whether to call 999 or wait to see their GP. ● A new "scorecard" to assess the performance of NHS trusts is to be introduced under Labour's planned reforms to the NHS, Alan Milburn, the health minister, said vesterday. The "National Performance Framework" will list the costs of treatments and operations provided by each NHS trust providing a benchmark maximum which all trusts must meet.

Document reveals Nazi gold trail

Governments due to receive £40m of gold recaptured from the Nazis at the end of the war need full access to archives to decide its fate, Jewish organisations said yesterday. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, has launched a fund for Holocaust survivors. and suggested that the outstanding gold could be donated for the benefit of victims of the Nazis.

The final payout of 5.6 tons of gold is due within months under the auspices of the Tripartite Gold Commission of America. Britain and France who were charged with administering it at the end of the war. But Elan Steinberg, of the World Jewish Congress, produced a previously unknown document yesterday which showed that the Allies knew that at least 55 tons of the gold in German reserves had come originally from the accounts of private individuals. He said it should have been returned to them in 1945 and it was obvious the £40m remaining should be returned to survivors now.

The discovery of the document, from files not yet published, also threw weight behind demands to open the archives. "We are trying to reconstruct the Nazi gold trail. That was the job of the TGC. We're trying to reinvent the wheel." Mr Steinberg said. America supports this move. But British delegates said the records must be secret until after the work of the commission was complete. Its work was held up for many years after the war by disputes over competing claims and the British did not want that to hap-

pen again if negotiations became public. Croatia also announced that it would be donating its share of the gold to the fund. The second day of the conference investigating Nazi gold, hosted by Mr Cook, saw the Vatican coming under fire from delegates from Britain, Israel and the Romanies. Dr Donald Kenrick, of the International Romani Union. said its research suggested gold and jewellery taken from gypsies in the Jasenovac camp in Croatia, had been sent to the Vatican. The union has confirmed records of 250,000 deaths in concentration camps and believes up to 500,000 gypsies may have lost their lives.

Millennium experience may cost visitors £17.50

The entrance fee for the Mil- year 2000 you can see what relennium dome could be £17.50 stream of callers in a live radio phone-in show.

The Minister without Portfolio, who was highly influential in rescuing the Millennium Experience from being abandoned, said on BBC Radio 5 Live the entrance charge would be similar to the £17.50 entrance fee for Alton Towers.

"Although the entry price has not been fixed, it will be no more than the average for any other attraction of its kind throughout the country. Alton Towers is £17.50, off the top of my head. In that region, if we are projecting an entry price for the

gion it will be ... once you are a head, Peter Mandelson said there, you will not pay any adyesterday as he defended the ditional sum in order to travel to

He told a doubting caller from his own constituency, that the people of Hartlepool would go to see the dome, and that it would be built within budget. "You must be talking to the

middle class people, not the working class," said the caller. "It's got nothing to do with the people in your constituency. They won't travel to it." "We'll see about that," Mr

Mandelson said. "What I find overwhelmingly is that people want together and celebrate our history for the millennium." --- Colin Brown

Chief Political Correspondent

IRA prisoners transferred

The first three long-term IRA prisoners to be transferred from Britain to jails in the Irish Republic were handed over yesterday following a recent agreement between London

and Dublin over sentence tariffs. The were Vincent Wood, serving 17 years for possession of explosives; Patrick Hayes, jailed for 30 years for planting a bomb outside Harrods; and

Denis Kinsella, serving a

25-year term for planting explosives at a gasworks in Warrington. The men were brought by helicopters to Portlaoise Prison. Seven other prisoners are understood to have transfer applications pending.

The move brings prisoners closer to families and was pressed for by the Irish side as a confidence building measure that could help reinforce the IRA

Daily Poem

The Loch Ness Monster's Song

By Edwin Morgan

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Football clubs kick off bid to help pupils with homework

Young people will be able to do their homework at football grounds after three top clubs agreed to join a government scheme. Judith Judd, Education Editor, looks at a novel way for pupils to achieve their goals.

Newcastle United, Leeds United and Sheffield Wednesday are the first to sign up for the form scheme which aims to motivate pupils through sport.

Pupils aged nine to 14 who need extra help with the 3Rs will be invited to the clubs which will offer literacy, numeracy and IT in purpose-built classrooms. Girls as well as boys will be lured by their enthusiasm for football, ministers hope.

Brian Philpot, Newcastle United's representative in the scheme, said: "The power of football clubs in the local community should never be underestimated. Girls at this age are probably more interested in football than boys."

The scheme will be funded by the Government, which is offering £2m, and by local authorities, business and the clubs. Next year, the Government hopes that the vast majority of Premier League and First Division clubs will join in.

All three clubs in the scheme, which starts next term. will select children with the help of local teachers. In Newcastle, regular attendance at five of the city's existing homework clubs and the achievement of attendance and punctuality targets set by schools will be among the criteria.

At least 500 pupils a year are

expected to visit each centre after school and on Saturday mornings. In Sheffield, pupils will attend for eight weeks. three times a week.

The centres will be staffed by qualified teachers and university and college students.

Phil McBride, a former deputy head, who will run the Newcastle centre and Sue Beeley, a modern languages teacher, who will head the Sheffield one, were given certificates by David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education. Mr Blunkett, a lifelong Wednesday fan, said: "Study centres in Premier League clubs ... will attract young people who could otherwise remain disaffeeted with education,

"Although more and more girls are interested in football nowadays, these centres will act as a magnet for hoys who tend to under-achieve in the three Rs.

Blunkett visited Chelsea's Stamford Bridge stadium to explain the scheme to Pele, the Brazilian football star, now Brazil's sports minister.

Asked whether hard-working children who were not under-achievers might feel they were being left out of the new venture, Mr Blunkett said: "In the past egalitarians have said if you can't provide it for everybody, don't provide it for anybody. We don't hold with that."

He acknowledged that not all young people are excited by football. Eventually, he hoped. homework clubs would be provided at non-sporting venues.

Paul Forbes, of Leeds City Council, suggested children might meet players as a reward for doing well on the scheme. The club hoped to ensure that players "popped in" when their



Sir Pele lends his support

Pele, the legendary former Brazilian footballer, with Tony Banks, the sports minister, at Stamford Bridge in south-west London yesterday to learn about the football-related scheme to encourage children to do their homework. Pele, who is now his country's sports minister, is visiting Britain with the Brazilian president, Fernando Cardoso The Duke of Kent accompanied the pair to the ground, the home of Chelsea FC. Earlier, Pele, who has three World Cup winners medals, picked up two new medals when he received an honorary Enight Commander of the British Empire from the Queen. After the ceremony at Buckingham Palace. Pele said: "It's a big responsibility, I thank the British

people for their trust in me.

LEAs want more say on heads

Local authority leaders are sentatives from outside schools' planning to sponsor an amend-governing bodies, including exment to the Education Bill published today to win greater control for councils over the appointment of head teachers.

Authorities will also ask Tony Blair to intervene personally in their attempt to increase their say in the selection of heads, which currently falls entirely to school governors.

Without tight controls, they claim, standards could be jeopardised, despite Government moves to improve training for heads. Ministers have acknowledged that the management of a school is the key factor in its success.

However, the Bill, which will give local education authorities new powers to help drive up standards in schools, as well as creating a new schools framework, is expected to do no more than allow councillors to write to governors requesting a change of heart if they are unhappy about a choice of head.

LEA leaders insist the move does not go far enough, and are seeking powers to veto appointments they consider unsuitable or to approve shortlists of candidates.

The Local Government Association also wants selection panels to include two repreperienced governors from other schools or head teachers from other authorities.

LGA education chairman Graham Lane claimed that governors often ignored advice given by education officers. He said: "The Government is suggesting we write to governors and say 'think again' when they have already made an appointment. But we want to get the appointment right first time."

LEAs themselves face takeover by Government "hitsquads", under today's Bill, if they are considered to be failing to drive up school standards.

The legislation will also pave the way for the creation of a new framework for schools, involving the abolition of Tory-created grant-maintained status.

Ministers were forced into partial retreat in October over plans for Church schools after bishops threatened to delay the Bill in the House of Lords. The concessions included an increase in the number of Church governors in aided schools.

The Tories will oppose the scrapping of GM status, claiming the move represents an onslaught on parental choice.

– Lucy Ward Education Correspondent



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Teachers believe basic skills targets are unrealistic

Only one in 10 primary school head teachers is convinced that government targets on driving up standards in the three Rs are achievable, according to a poll published to-

The maths and English targets, on which the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, David Blunkett. has staked his job, will require "substantial" extra funding if

they are to succeed, heads say. . The findings come on the same day as another survey says that primary teachers want more time to spend on literacy and numeracy. The study, carried out for the National Association of Schoolmasters-Union of Women leachers, shows that more than three-quarters of teachars eel the National Curricuovercrowded, while the vast

concentrate on basic skills.

Of 1,037 heads questioned in the first survey, almost twothirds believe plans to ensure that 80 per cent of 11-year-olds are reaching acceptable standards in English by the end of this Parliament will founder without more money. Another quarter are still uncertain whether success is possible.

Almost as many believe the target of 75 per cent of the age group being on track in maths is unrealistic. The doubts expressed in the

study, conducted for the National Association of Head Teachers and the BBC education programme Just One Chance, prompted Mr Blunkett to renew his pledge to resign if the goals are not met within a five-year timetable.

But heads had failed to understand the size of the Govsain for primaries is ernment's investment in schools, he told the promajority want more time to gramme - broadcast tonight. — Lucy Ward

Bibi's hairdresser, the wife, the lover and the suicide

Nobody knows who fired first but by the time the shooting ended, David Afuta, hairdresser to Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and his girlfriend, Anat Elimelech, had died. Patrick Cockburn reports from Jerusalem on a double killing that has gripped the nation.

The potential for violence is everywhere in Israel, but Israelis were still shocked to learn that David Afuta, 38, hairdresser to Benjamin and Sarah Netanyahu, had died after being shot twice in the chest. Beside him. shot with a single bullet in his apartment in Jerusalem, was Anat Elimelech, 23, his girlfriend and a successful model, who had been intending to leave him.

Nobody knows who shot first and afterwards committed suicide. Investigators say there were signs of a struggle before the shots were fired. I am absolutely stunned a good shot and might have been able to and shocked," said Sarah Netanyahu. "I think that disagreements of all types should be solved by discussion."

the couple. They had been together for six forced to support him."

years, but Ms Elimelech was frustrated that Mr Afuta's previous wife, by whom he had two children, was refusing to give him a di-

When she threatened to leave him Mr Afuta threatened to kill her. Earlier this week he called a friend from his rented apartment at Beit Hakarem Heights, in Jerusalem, and told him: "I'm in a serious depression."

Ms Elimelech was appearing on a television show and only arrived home at 8am. Police say the two had an argument. Three shots were heard. Mr Afuta's brother and Ms Elimelech's father had tried and failed to get them on the phone in the apartment.

The two families, knowing the tension between the two, tried to get into the apartment and, when the door was not answered, broke in through roof and found the bod-

Police investigators are divided about exactly what happened. Mr Afuta had been depressed and threatened her because she wanted to leave him. He was strong and shoot himself twice after killing her. On the other hand, the gun was powerful and was found near Ms Elimelech's hand. One of Police investigators are divided about his friends was quoted as saying she was anwhat happened during the last moments of gry because "he wasted money and she was



Yeltsin woos Swedes with tales of big military cuts

El Nino, ther cold The US agreed to boost support for Moscow's push to slash and reform its armed forces, hours after President Boris Yeltsin promised big military cuts. His announcement during a visit to Sweden overshadowed the event at Nato headquarters, where the US Defense Secretary, William Cohen, and Marshal Igor Sergeyev signed an agreement to increase exchanges of military officers.

"They are going through a very painful time right now," Mr Cohen said, referring to cuts to the Russian forces under stringent budget measures. "It is important to help in any way we can in a positive, constructive fashion." Mr Yeltsin told the Swedish parliament that Russia would cut its land and naval forces by 40 per cent beginning in 1999, "especially in north-western Russia." The Foreign Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, hastened to clarify that the 40-per-cent cut referred only to the north-western region.

Door clue to ferry tragedy

A report yesterday blamed technical factors for the 1994 Estonia ferry disaster. in which 852 people died, but implied more could have been done by the crew and rescuers. The Estonia sank in rough seas off the Finnish coast on 27 September three years ago. It was Europe's worst maritime disaster since the Second World War. The report, by a three-nation commission, said the main factor behind the sinking was weak locking of the ferry's bow door, which was jolted open.

A lawyer for Meyer Werft, the German yard that built the Estonia, said it had sailed for 14 years without problems before the accident, arguing that the report was based on theoretical models. A lawyer for a group representing families of Swedish victims said he was dissatisfied with the report and called for a new inquiry.

Meat irradiation approved

The US Food and Drug Administration has approved irradiation of red meat and sausages to reduce the risk of poisoning, four months after the closure of Hudson Foods, in Nebraska, one of the country's biggest meat-processing plants, following an outbreak of E coli.

The FDA said it was satisfied irradiation was safe, did not demonstrably" after the nutritional content of food, and did not change flavour or texture. Irradiation is already approved for poultry and fruit and vegetables in the US; treated produce must be labelled as such.

Mary Dejevsky - Washington

Sharif thanks army

The Pakistani government yesterday praised the army for its role in solving the political crisis that led to the resignation this week of President Farooq Leghari in a victory for Prime Muslim League.

a positive role to stabilise the sitcommendable commitment to chief justice. Mr Mian was ordemocratic political system," the justice after a bench suspend-Information Minister, Mush- ed chief justice Sajjad Ali Shah ahid Hussain, said.

Sharif's government had pubgave to end weeks of constitu- breakdown. tional paralysis.

The army itself made no comment on its role. Last week, it denied having any designs on power after media reports suggested that a return to martial law, last in force in 1985, was im-Minister Nawaz Sharif's ruling minent because of the standoff between Mr Sharif and the ju-"The Pakistan Army played diciary and president.

Earlier yesterday, Ajmal uation and demonstrated a Mian was sworn in as acting on Tuesday. Mr Shah's removal It was the first time Mr prompted the resignation on Tuesday of Mr Leghan, who had licly acknowledged the support been at odds with Mr Sharif for which Western diplomats be- months in a power struggle lieved the powerful military that threatened constitutional

— Reuters, Islamabad



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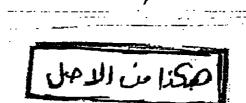
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Is it El Nino, or just another cold winter?

The weather phenomenon known as El Nino, which caused a devastating drought in South-east Asia and floods in east Africa, is also disrupting the climate of Europe, according to scientists at an environment conference in Japan. Richard Lloyd Parry in Kyoto assesses the evidence.

New research suggests that summer floods in Germany, and even this week's snow in Britain, have both been influenced by the El Nino effect which is likely to generate a wet, relatively warm winter in England, especially in the South-west.

The phenomenon is the subject of much discussion at the United Nations conference on climate change being held in Kyoto. The aim of the gathering, attended by delegates from more than 160 countries, is to reach a global agreement on quotas for the reduction of greenhouse gases, which are believed to cause global warming.

Despite circumstantial evidence, there is no scientific consensus yet on whether the gases, principally carbon dioxide, have exacerbated El Nino. But the research offers striking examples of the effect seemingly small variations in temperature can have on the weather of places thousands of miles apart, an alarming foreshadowing of the potential effects of global warming.

The climatological "event" known as El Nino is a periodic rise in the temperature of the eastern Pacific, around Peru and the Galapagos Islands. There was a strong El Nino in 1982 and 1983, and a lesser version of the phenomenon was observed throughout the late 1990s. This sumon record, resulting in heavy rain in the eastern central Europe this summer.

Pacific, and unusual dryness in southern Africa and Central and South America.

In South-east Asia, there was a severe drought causing serious food shortages in New Guinea and contributing to forest fires in Indonesia which enveloped the whole region in a choking smog. A subsequent warming of the Indian Ocean has led to devastating floods in Somalia and southern Ethiopia. But far from being confined to the tropies. El Nino has also had pronounced effects in Europe, according to unpublished work circulating among scientists at the Kyoto conference.

Scientists at the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting in Reading have produced computer models which attempt to iron out random weather variations to isolate the specific effects of El Nino. Compared to North America, Asia and Oceania, the impact of the phenomenon on Europe has in the past been considered mild. But the strength of this year's event has made it easier to distinguish between the genuine El Nino "signal" and the run-of-the-mill fluctuations in weather known to meteorologists as "background noise".

Projections for previous months have been shown by subsequent weather to be accurate; for December, January and February, the computer model suggests that El Nino will contribute to unusually warm, wet weather in the southern

part of Britain, especially in Cornwall. The remarkable range of the effects of El Nino have long been known, but until now scientists have been uncertain about its effects on Europe. According to Dr Anver Ghazi, head of the European Commission's Climate and Natural Hazards Unit, which is funding the research, the effects of El Nino appear also to have contributed mer, however, saw the most powerful El Nino to the rain which caused devastating floods in



The Climate and Natural Hazards Unit was only supposed to last until 1999 - It was set up by the European Commission in 1994 as a four-year experiment. If the past 12 months have been anything to go by, it has a long and busy future ahead of it. 1997 has been one of the most disaster-rich years in recent European memory.

The Unit carries out research on three different hazards hydrological risk, earthquakes, forest fires and volcanoes. relatively quiet, but in every other category there has been a flooding in Germany, a big earth-

The Unit has published research on ways of reducing flood risk, identifying various problems. European seismolo-Europe's volcanoes have been gists and engineers have exchanged information with their Japanese colleagues since bumper crop, with massive the Assisi earthquake, and a method has been developed for quake in Italy, and forest fires in measuring forest fires and pre-Spain and the south of France. dicting their likely direction.



The El Nino effect: The carnage after floods swept southern France, killing four people Photograph: Reuters

Greenhouse gas linked to weather system

"To me, it's just the like a pot on the fire." says Bekuretsion Kassahun. "You think the heat is being distributed evenly, but there's always one part which heats up more quickly than the rest. That's what El Nino is - I believe that it's caused by global warming, and that it's just the first place, the very beginning of the effects which are going to be felt."

Mr Kassahun is probably in a minority at the environment conference in Kyoto science has yet to establish an indisputable connection between El Nino and the warming of the planet caused by carbon dioxide emissions. But, as a meteorologist for the Ethiopian government, he has more immediate reason to worry than most. This year, southern Ethiopia has suffered devastating floods which have killed more than 100 people and displaced up to 200,000 others. In neighbouring Somalia, the situation is many times worse. And there is little doubt that the rains are the result of a rise in the temperature of the Indian Ocean caused by El Nino.

What causes El Nino is another matter. and the official literature is tantalisingly vague. According to the United Nations' World Meteorological Organisation which gave a presentation on the subject in Kyoto yesterday, "it is the very complex interaction between the ocean and the atmosphere that determines the onset and termination of El Nino events."

Huge volcanic eruptions which block out the sun with large quantities of ash may or may not influence them, and a link between El Nino and global warming "has not been confirmed by research". But if the mounting consensus among scientists about the progress of global warming is correct, then El Nino may very well be giving a foretaste of what the world has in store.

If greenhouse gases, principally carbon dioxide, double by the end of the next century, average temperatures could rise by 3.5C, with correspondingly dramatic consequences. Greenhouse gas emissions have increased steadily throughout the 20th century and so have the intensity and frequency of El Nino "events".

--- Richard Lloyd Parry



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convicted of fiddle

Former Italian prime min-ister Silvio Berlusconi chalked up his first court conviction for business malpractice yesterday, raising doubts about his political

Berlusconi received a 16-month suspended sentence for false accounting over the acquisition of the Italian film company Medusa by his Fininvest media empire in 1987. He was also fined 60 million lire (around £25,000) for his role in artificially inflating the price of Medusa and siphoning off the difference.

The conviction was significant because it was a clear rejection of Berlusconi's argument that he was not responsible for everything in his business empire. It bodes ill for his fortunes in two other ongoing corruption trials.

The main damage is likely to be political, however. Following a string of municipal election defeats, the knives are out in the centre-right opposition for its leadership, and Mr Berlusconi in particular.

- Andrew Gumbel

Berlesconi How I killed to please 'Mummy'

Mary Braid in Johannesburg heard the testimony of the man who 'finished off' Stompie Moeketsi, the appailingly battered 14-yearold victim of Winnie Mandela's bodyguards.

"I loved Mama with all my heart." said Jerry Richardson, 49, convicted killer and former "coach" of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela's notorious Mandela United Football Club. "I would have done anything to please her." Anything, he testified, included murder.

On the eighth day of public hearings into murder and assault allegations against Mrs Mandela and her vigilante "club", which terrorised Soweto in the late 1980s. it was the turn of the man who once led the team to tell his story.

Richardson told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission he had killed four people on Mummy's (the members' term of endearment for Mrs Mandela) orders.

"Mummy never killed anyone," said Richardson, serving life for the 1989 murder of activist Stompie Seipei Mocketsi. "But she used us to kill a lot of people."

He said Stompic, whose kidnap Mrs Mandela was convicted of, was killed on Mama's instructions. Like Stompie, Soweto youths Lolo Sono and Sibuisiso Shabalala were murdered after being accused of spying. The fourth victim, Kuki Zwane, was killed because she would not end her relationship with Sizwe Sithole, the father of Mrs Mandela's grandchild.

Even after days of harrowing testimony,

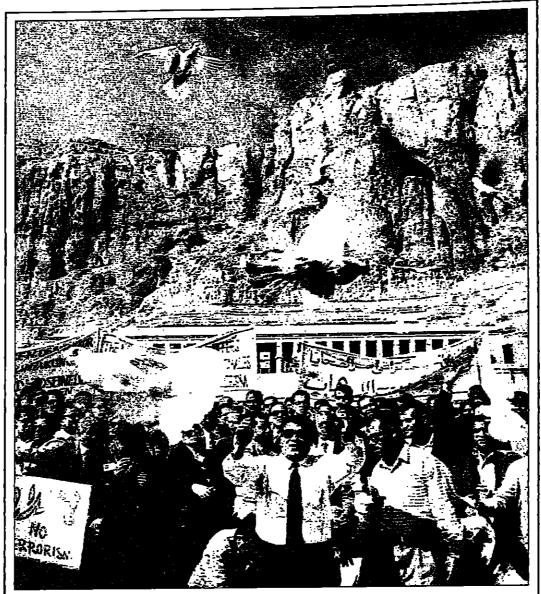
Richardon's evidence read like a horror movie in which he was psychopathic killer at the slavish bidding of a violent mistress. He said that when he killed Stompie it had been a matter of "finishing him off". The boy was already almost dead from a beating at Mrs Mandela's home. He had been thrown into the air seven times and kicked 'like a football". Mrs Mandela, 63, had joined in with sjambok and fists.

The detail was too much for Stompie's mother Joyce. She let out a cry and was led from the hall weeping. With so much focus on what the hearings mean for Mrs Mandela's political career, it was a reminder that they are also about the suffering of the weak at the hands of the powerful.

Richardson's story supports assault accusations against Mrs Mandela by other witnesses but contradicts former team member Katiza Cebekhulu's claim that he saw Mrs Mandela stabbing Stompie.

There was laughter when Richardson was asked why he was applying for aranesty. "I'm trying my luck," he said. After days in which so few witnesses have seemed to tell all they know, Archbishop Desmond Tutu. TRC chairman, said wryly. "There is some honesty, at least."

But Mrs Mandela could also afford to laugh. Richardson, like other accusers. would hardly make a credible prosecution witness in a court. That fact might have had something to do with the arrival of three cabinet ministers and a provincial premier at yesterday's hearing. It was the largest show of support so far from the ANC, apparently still hedging its bets on Mrs Mandela's survival. Today, she will have her say.



More than 1,000 tour guides releasing doves at Queen Hatshepsut's temple near Luxor, Egypt, in memory of the 62 people who died in last month's massacre

Spanish joy over Rock

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Spain's Foreign Minister, Abel Matutes, yesterday hailed as "a triumph for Spanish diplomacy" Britain's decision on Tuesday to set aside the dispute over Gibraltar and approve Nato's plan to streamline its command structure. Britain had earlier argued that Spain must lift its restrictions on air and naval movements around Gibraltar to be fully integrated into the

Mr Matutes said Britain, at the Nato meeting in Brussels. had lifted its reservations "without any condition whatsoever. Meanwhile. Spain retains its air and naval restrictions on the military use of the Rock."

British and Spanish officials meet in Madrid tomorrow. Mr Matutes said: "Spain would like to start making concessions and lifting the restrictions, in exchange for progress in this whole process of recuperating Spanish sovereignty."

A Foreign Office spokesman said vesterday: "Britain has lifted its reserve on the principle of Nato enlargement, but we will block work to implement the Spanish and Gibraltar aspects of the new structure until acceptable arrangements are agreed for Gibraltar."

- Elizabeth Nash, Madrid

French left poo-poos Blair

terday pointed to "le Blairisme" as an example to avoid.

minister and a close friend of the Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, said the French Socialist Party was re-inventing centre-left politics. It was going through an "ideological transition which would take the party neither towards the Communists "nor towards a con-

version to Blairism". (French) government, and es-

fading, nor old fashioned socialism; a way which combines governments on job creation. Claude Allegre, education individual responsibility with the general interest, justice with efficiency."

Mr Allègre's comments give a rare glimpse of the intense rivalry which exists beneath the surface friendliness between the Jospin and Blair camps. When the two prime minis-

ters were elected this year, they inherited enormously different He told Le Figaro: "The countries and economies. But pecially Lionel Jospin, are try- moral and philosophical lead- the absence of social protections ing to invent a new way which ership of the European left.

is neither (free-market) liber- In his interview, Mr Allègre

A French Socialist minister yes- alism, whose attractions are did point to some similarities between the approach of the two

> The interviewer from the right-wing Figaro, which regularly uses Mr Blair as a stick to beat the French Socialists, pointed out that the British
> Government was a coaseless ad-Government was a ceaseless advocate of "flexibility" in the job market. Mr Allègre replied curtly: "They talk about flexibility, at any rate. We are not going down that road because that word has become synonymous they are in competition for the with social precariousness and

> > for those who work." --- John Lichfield, Paris

Tsarist riddle nears its end

Some of the remains of Tsar mains, found outside Ekater-Nicholas II and his family, mur- inburg, belong to Nicholas and dered by the Bolsheviks in 1918. were brought to Moscow for au-

thenticity tests yesterday. The bones were taken to a research institute which was ex- sion to send the bones to pected to complete tests by 15 Moscow for final testing has January and to deliver a report caused controversy. Officials

month ordered the bones to be er be returned. transferred from Ekaterinburg, where Nicholas II, his wife and children were shot, for final identification before reburial.

abroad have agreed after con-standing.

his family.

Church raised doubts about their authenticity. The deci-President Boris Yeltsin last cause they fear they might nev-

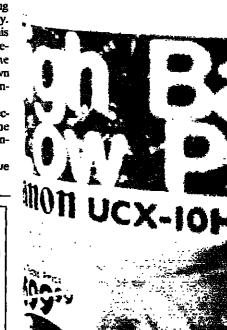
> Authorities in Moscow, St Petersburg and Ekaterinburg are gress on 13 December. contesting the right to bury the remains in their cities and see

Klaus bids to recapture power

Vaclav Klaus, ousted as Czech But the Russian Orthodox Prime Minister in a party funding row last week, said yesterday he would seek re-election as his party's chairman, making a general election more likely.

Klaus raised the stakes in his to the government the same day. in Ekaterinburg protested be-fight for control of the Civic Democratic Party (ODS) he founded, setting up a showdown in an extraordinary party con-

Klaus is likely to win re-election, creating a split in the Scientists in Russia and this as a way to boost their ODS and an impasse in the centre-right ruling coalition.







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Tories incensed by Prescott's blueprint for the regions

The countryside would be left to graceful!" as he added that the fend for itself under an urbanbiased system of development Labour, Lord Shuttleworth claimed last night, as he quit his asking him to stay on. post as chairman of the Rural Development Commission.

tirely unmoved. "He's gone - role and possibly engulfed alhappy retirement. I think the together, was unhappy, other rural areas will be better off countryside groups had welwithout him," he told MPs. comed yesterday's White Paper, There were Tory cries of "dis-

peer was about to leave anyway and was well aware that the agencies to be set up under Deputy Prime Minister had "no intention whatsoever" of

While the Rural Development Commission, which would But John Prescott was en- be reduced to a mere advisory

areas that they would be bound to have an urban bias.

Rural people and countryside communities will yet again wonder whether the Government really listens to their views and concerns," he said.

Mr Prescott announced vesterday that the part of the Government's comprehensive and government, and will have spending review which related three main functions.

Lord Shuttleworth com- to rural policy was being speedplained that the nine new agen- ed up. Too many different bodcies would cover such large ies were responsible for what went on in the countryside, he suggested.

The new agencies will be modelled on bodies which already exist in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. They will work with local authorities. Training and Enterprise Councils, industry voluntary groups,

duce and implement strategic economic plans for their regions. They will cover economic funding. development and regeneration. and will contribute to the plan-

ning of transport and land-use. Second, they will work to attract inward investment to their hids for regional assistance

The new bodies will also be given responsibility for admin-

First, the agencies will progrants, along with a number of other sources of regeneration

Sir Norman Fowler, the Tory environment spokesman, said the bodies would have the power to acquire green-belt land for development, and this could regions and advise ministers on lead to the countryside being spoiled. "These are not elected hodies but will be appointed entirely by government ministers. They are the creatures of

accountable to the public...

There were also complaints from a former Conservative local government minister, David Curry, that the agencies might end up wasting resources by competing with each other to attract investment. He said that what Britain needed was a single inward investment agency.

The White Paper will be followed by a Bill within the next

Brussels agrees to dilute tobacco advertising ban

The Government may seek exclusions from an EU tobacco sponsorship ban for sporting and cultural events other than Formula One, it emerged in Brussels yesterday. Katherine Butler

After weeks of wrangling, Grand Prix events are likely to be granted a six to seven year exemption when European governments meet for decisive talks on a ban today. The Government originally demanded a permanent exemption for events" would be left to mem-Grand Prix racing because of its particular dependence on spon-

The Tory head of a rural

resigned in protest last

most of his empire to its

Development Agencies.

plans to breathe new life

into the English regions.

Fron Abrams examines

Government handed

development body

night after the

new Regional

sorship by the tobacco giants. A compromise proposal, which now appears acceptable to both the European Commission and the Government.

any compromise.

experience," he said.

going to be an interesting

years to convert the ban into nayear phase for indirect advertional reprieve, the duration to be negotiated today, is designed to allow "existing" tobacco sponsorship of Formula One to continue, bringing the total extra time to at least six

But the text of the compromise formula makes no direct mention of Formula One, stating that the additional reprieve could be sought for "events and activities organised at world level". EU officials said the definition of "world level ber states, although the proposal says that any exemption would have to be "in exceptional cases and for duly justified rea-

According to official sources the Government has "not ruled gives all member states two out" applying the exemption bacco sponsorship.

clause to other sporting or cultional law, and a further two tural events which are dependent on tobacco sponsorship tising by cigarette companies and which might require time applying to all sports. An addi- to findalternatives, If the ban is agreed today, other governments are expected to exploit this loophole to buy time for sports they want to protect.

> Agreement on the tobacco advertising ban still hangs in the balance: four countries - Germany, Denmark, Greece and Austria - are resolutely op-

Padraig Flynn, the EU commissioner who proposed the ban, is relying on British support for the qualified majority he needs to push it through, and is therefore reluctantly ready to accomodate British concerns on Formula One.

The amended proposal does, however stipulate that Formula One organisers would have to demonstrate convincingly that they were cutting to-



She handled information because she was an information officer. She shared that information with her employers at the British embassy in Rangoon. As she herself noted yesterday: "I was just doing my job." The pay-off for doing her job was, however, brutally simple. The

Burmese government jailed Nita Yin Yin May for three years – for subversion. As a former British prime minister once ob-

served: it's a funny old world. Yesterday, Mrs May's courage and suffering were honoured. Now a presenter and senior producer with the

Burmese section of the BBC World Service in London, she received an honorary OBE from Robin Cook (above), who told

her: "We're very proud of you." Those present for yesterday's small ceremony in the ornate splendour of the Foreign Office included Mrs May's six-

year-old son, Arkar. She was pregnant with Arkar when she was jailed. She said yesterday that her hope was "for some democratic change - but it can't come

> — Steve Crawshaw Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

Strasbourg set to reject deal

The European Parliament is likely to throw out any compromise deal on tobacco spon- January or February, the Eu- but was previously blocked by sorship thrashed-out today, ropean Parliament will have the Conservative government. causing potential embarrass- three months in which to decide ment to the British govern- whether to accept it. If MEPs carlier version prepared by Mr vote to delete the derogation ment during its presidency of allowing a stay of execution for the European Union.

Last night Ken Collins, a Formula One, a process of "conciliation" will begin. Labour MEP and chairman of This will be particularly emthe committee with responsibarrassing for Tessa Jowell, the bility for public health, said there would be little appetite in health minister, because under the European Parliament for Britain's presidency of the EU she will be pitted against Mr "The Parliament has a his-Collins in the negotiations. She will not be in a position to tory of wanting a ban on tobacco advertising. This is certainly express the British govern-

ment's own views. The European Directive

Once a deal is struck and the under discussion by health minpaperwork finalised, probably in isters today goes back to 1990,

Political Correspondent

In 1992, an opinion on an Collins's committee, the Envi-

ronment, Public Health and Consumer Protection Committee, said the "one step at a time" approach then taken by the European Commission was "far too cautious, if not insubstantial, and was an unsatisfactory response."

The Commission was forced to go back and draw up plans for a total ban.

--- Fran Abrams

Features Optical Image

Frir controlls Hi-fi stereo 🤰 6 ргодтал



Today the growth industry in Cambodia isn't fashion. It's prosthetics.

The country has around 20,000 amputees from a population of just 8.5 million. This means one amputee for every 236 people (compared to a figure of one for every 22,000 people in America).

So why is the situation in Cambodia so bad?

The country has suffered from civil unrest for many years. But the real villain of the piece isn't so much the war, as the

by anti-personnel landmines. They are an incredibly cheap torm of warfare (costing as little as 3 US dollars

Cambodia is literally being crippled

each). So to seize some tactical advantage combatants think nothing of deploying scores of these weapons.

In a single 1km stretch of road in Cambodia 6,000 landmines were found. They are also deployed with scant

regard for the indigenous population. It is the men, women and children out working the fields who are most likely to

fall victim to these hidden killers. And in an agricultural society where muscle power means survival, the loss of a limb can have repercussions far beyond the physical disability.

Take just one of Cambodia's victims. Chhea Veou was 19 when she lost a leg walking to harvest rice in a paddy.

"I cannot earn money because no one will employ me. I wanted to have children. But no-one will marry me because I don't

And so she is forced to follow the dangerous paths into the rice fields at harvest time. She shrugs. "What else can I do?"

It's because of Chhea, and thousands like her, that the Red Cross is urgently

seeking your belp. The carnage must end. For further information please call 0171 201 5060.



LANDMINES MUST BE STUPPED

There wasn't life in Nasa's Mars meteorite, it was a mistake caused by misinterpreting the photographs from an electron microscope. That, says Charles Arthur, Science Editor, is the latest rebuttal by a team of American scientists.

Life on Mars? No it wasn't, according to a team of American scientists, who have produced a comprehensive rebuff to the claims by the US space agency Nasa that it had found fossil evidence of past extra-terrestrial life in a meteorite from Mars.

In fact, according to Ralph Harvey, leader of a team at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, the things that Nasa mistook for fossil bacteria in the potato-sized mete- an electron microscope. There, orite ALH84001 were fractures in the rock, allied to a byproduct of the technique used to photograph those fractures.

"Sometimes even nature has a perverse sense of humour." he said, adding that the worm-like threads that Nasa's multidisciplinary team described as nanofossils were formed by geological, not biological processes.

After six months of studying the meteorite, which was found in Antarctica in 1984 having split off from Mars about 4 billion years ago, Dr Harvey concluded: "We have now found two different types of mineral forms in ALH84001 that look just like nanofossils, but they are strict- bly be that the best way to be ly non-biological." His team's certain will be to send missions findings are reported today in to the Red Planet to prospect the science journal Nature.

growing list of those which ed in putting life into Nasa, if

excited announcement in August 1996 by Nasa that ALH84001 showed signs of having once harboured life.

At the time, Nasa's scientists said that any confirmation of their claims would have to come from the rest of the world science community. However, that approval has been slow to arrive. In fact, no major piece of research has backed Nasa's claim. while many studies have chipped away at pieces of the series of hypotheses which are necessary to support the claim.

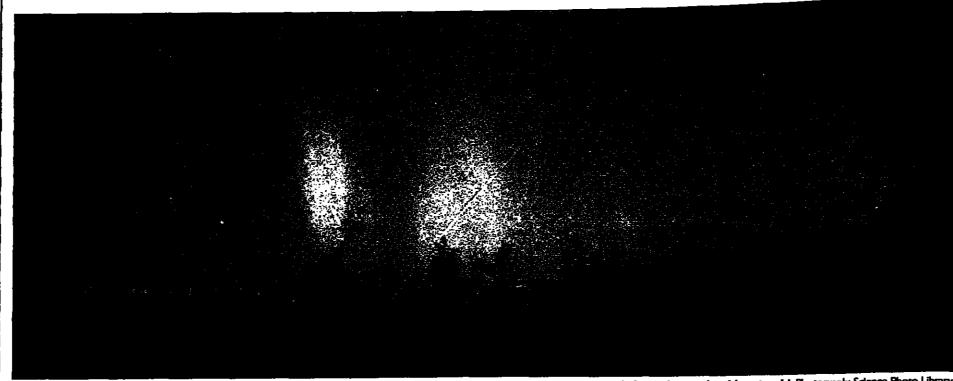
A separate reason why Nasa's claims were grected with surprise by some scientists is that ALH84001 had been extensively studied by other scientists - including some in Britain - before passing to Nasa. Those researchers had

found nothing extraordinary. But the Nasa team examined sections of the meteorite using they said they discovered wormlike features. They said that peculiarities of the surface features meant that they could only have been made by some sort of bacterial life, which then became fossilised. The rock in which the bacteria had lived was then sheared off Mars and

eventually fell to Earth. strongly. "Peculiar surface structures or segmentation on the worm-like forms are artefacts from conductive metal coatings, applied to the samples for imaging in the electron microscope.

Nasa's response will probadirectly for life. In which case The latest paper joins a ALH84001 will have succeedhave come down against the not its planet of origin.

Why asteroids that killed the dinosaurs could strike again



Star-gazing: A meteor track caused by comet debris entering the atmosphere. At some stage in the future, Earth will be hit by another big asteroid Photograph: Science Photo Library

every hundred million years,

according to British scientists. Mike Warner, of Imperial College, London, working with sults are published today in the a team from the US, Mexico science journal Nature.

The asteroid impact that wiped and Canada, has determined years ago was caused by a near the Gulf of Mexico - was comparatively small meteor caused by an asteroid about pected to hit the Earth once puts it "at the low end of the estimates", said Dr Warner. "The range did go from about 80km across to 200km." The re-

But that also means that huout the dinosaurs 65 million that the "Chicxulub impact" - manity is at greater threat from such random events. since the probability of impacts we had imagined." of the size which could be ex- 100km (60 miles) across. This falls as the size of the body increases. "In evolutionary terms, 100 million years is pretty often," he said, "Whereas something 200 km across would only hit us about once every billion years. There will

be another impact which will recent survey by Nasa sughave dramatic consequences; and it will happen sooner than

Scientists are increasingly concerned that we have no coordinated means of detecting asteroids which could hit the Earth, and that even if we did there would be no agreed method of diverting them. A

observatories. Dr Warner commented,

"We're used to thinking that mammals and humans apgested that there are thousands peared because they were betof "near-Earth" objects rangter than what we replaced. ing from a few hundred metres But this event shows that the to some kilometres in size still dinosaurs and the reptiles were wandering within our orbit just unlucky ... If it hadn't haparound the Sun. Yet governpened, they would still be here. ments have proved reluctant to Evolution is a more random provide funding for dedicated process than we think."

- Charles Arthur

Female hormones keep men fertile

The CMRU team disagrees Do men have any use for female hormones, known as oestrogens? Yes, say scientists - the tiny amount produced naturally keeps them fertile. This could also shed new light on fears over 'environmental

oestrogen'. Charles Arthur

Fears that manmade chemicals which mimic female bormones are causing a loss in male fertility may be misplaced, following new research which shows that sperm actively need the female hormone, oestrogens, to thrive. Since sex hormones were dis-

covered earlier this century, oestrogens have been regarded as an intrinsically female hormone, and androgens (such as testosterone) the essence of masculinity. Oestrogens regulate the menstrual cycle in

in female body shape at puberty. Androgens cause hair growth and the deepening of the voice in boys. Limited versions of the same change can be induced in the opposite sex by administering those hormones.

However, men and women naturally both produce small quantities of both hormones, which scientists now think are "sides of the same coin" in regulating many body functions. They now know, for example,

the bones stop growing. Men who do not produce any oestrogen keep growing.

The essential role of oestrogen in male fertility was discovered by a team at the University of Illinois, which found that mice genetically engineered to have no cells which are sensitive to oestrogen are sterile.

This finding, reported today in the science journal Nature. has important implications for worries about "environmental" that it is oestrogen, not testos- hormones" such as phthlates, at last give scientists some bawomen, and cause the changes terone, which determines when found in some plastics packag- sis for future work to see how

ing, and other pollutants. Earlier this week a survey

suggested that global male fertility - measured in sperm counts - has halved over the past 50 years. This has been ascribed to increasing amounts of said. "oestrogen mimics" which were blamed for affecting males.

Richard Sharpe of the Medical Research Council's Reproductive Biology Unit in Edinburgh, commenting on the latest work, said that this would

solidly based these claims are. "The huge, but exciting, task that we now face is to discover what oestrogens are doing at their many different sites of action in the male," Mr Sharpe

Rex Heff, who led the Illinois scientists, wrote in Nature: "This finding is important given the recent concerns over reported declines in human sperm counts and speculation that exposure to environmental oestrogens may be the cause

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'Friends' in Middle East rebuff US and flock to Tehran

Arab leaders arrive in Iran this week for an Islamic conference that signals the collapse of American prestige in the Middle East. Israel's refusal to accept a Palestinian state, Robert Fisk reports from Tehran, is bringing even Washington's Arab 'friends' together in the capital of its principal

adversary in the region.

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— Charles Apple

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Could there be a more potent symbol of American failure? In the high, chilly city of Tehran, windswept below the Elborz mountain range, the so-called "partners for peace" will be gathering alongside Washington's enemies in the Arab world. In the city which US news magazines like to call the "capital of world terror", the flags are already flying for Jordan and Egypt and the Palestinian authority - the very powers which have made peace with Israel as well as Saudi Arabia, Syria, Kuwait, Iraq and more than a dozen other Arab nations.

Yasser Arafat will be there. of course, the man who shook hands with Yitzbak Rabin on the White House lawn four years ago. So, the Iranians believe, will Jordan's King Hussein, whose fury at Israel's official in Amman has still not abated.

foreign minister, will be in Tehran - and efforts are being made to persuade President Hosni Mubarak himself to come. Crown Prince Abdullah has indicated he will represent Arab-Israeli agreements. Mr Arabs in the face of America's Saudi Arabia.

threatened the Saudis - will represent Saddam Hussein.

It is, of course, an Islamic rather than an Arab conference; the Muslim nations of South-East Asia will be participating. along with Pakistan, Bosnia and Turkey. The Arab League will be represented and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has been invited.

Many of the delegates arriving in Tehran will be anxious to see if President Mohamed Khatami is truly freeing his society from the social chains of post-revolutionary Iran as his supporters claim. They will want to know what the anti-Khatami clique is trying to do by victimising Khatami's 75year-old fellow cleric, Ayatollah Montazeri.

But the substance of the conference, which will include discussions on women's rights and education as well as the Middle East crisis, is far outweighed by its timing - at the very moment when almost every Arab nation has abandoned hope in the so-called "peace process".

How thankful the Iranians must be to the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu. His latest announcement of yet further Jewish settlement on occupied Arab land is a windfall for those in Tehran who have always maintained that the process - the 1991 Madrid attempted murder of a Hamas Arab-Israeli conference as well as the 1993 Oslo agreement was an American trick to turn Amr Moussa, the Egyptian the Arabs into supplicants of

Kuwaitis - or for that matter the Prime Minister of Iraq - the the massacre of 58 tourists at agreements.

very nation which invaded Luxor last month and is in no Kuwait seven years ago and mood to embrace any form of Iran-style Islamic renaissance. Mr Arafat, whose security forces have been obediently locking up Israel's enemies in the Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements - whom Iran openly supports - is not coming to Tehran to seek Iranian assistance for his grubby little statelet in Gaza (albeit Israel will probably draw that conclusion). The Saudis will go on repressing their own Shia minority however much they will be welcomed in Iran.

> But that is not the point. What the Tehran summit will reflect is how dismally the United States failed to persuade its "Arab friends" to attend the Arab-Israeli economic summit in the tiny Gulf emirate of Oatar last month and how willingly those same absentees are prepared to come to the nation which the US is still attempting to isolate and - given official CIA funding to destabilise Iran - to overthrow. It has always been Iran's be-

fief that those Arabs who signed up for peace with Israel - and believed Washington's guarantee meant that a neutral America would ensure the fulfilment of the agreements of land for peace - would be betrayed. And now. with no help from Iran, Mr Netanyahu and the power of the Israeli lobby in the US has proved to the satisfaction of many Arab countries what Iran had all along been saying.

Fears of Iranian subversion in the Arab world, of territorial disputes with Arab gulf states Not that the Saudis or the and allegations that Iran is behind Islamist violence (once of Egyptians – are subscribing to Mr Mubarak's favourite claims) Iran's animosity towards the are now less important for the Mubarak has been cursing his refusal to keep Israel to the let-Taha Yassin Ramadan, the own Islamist opponents since ter as well as the spirit of its



Crowd control: The Iranian football team's cheerleader encouraging supporters

Crowds hail hand of God in World Cup triumph

Iran's football team has qualified for the World Cup finals. Robert Fisk joins the players returning from Australia to Tehran and a wild reception.

On the flight from Dubai, the crew pleaded with the passengers to sit down as they swarmed around Iran's new beroes, demanding autographs and taking snapshots of the players. No sooner had we landed than armed Revolutionary Guards, faces delitious with joy, blocked our path to the stand, along with baggage handlers and immigration officers. The Australian pilot ordered his crew not to open the doors lest the framans forced their way on to the plane and crushed us all.

Only when an Iranian air force helicopter taxied alongside to carry the team into town were we free to leave. In Tehran's Meherbad airport, staff stood transfixed before television screens showing the same helicopter landing in the city football stadium before a crowd of hundreds of thousands. Not since the 1979 revolution had Tehran seen anything like this.

Iran has a habit of blaming its external enemies for its setbacks and God for its successes. True to form, divine intervention was credited by several passengers with Iran's two Melbourne goals in seven minutes which secured the country's place - just - for next year's finals in France. It was the only event in which Iran was successful, another passenger announced, which was not "trammelled up with politics or Islam".

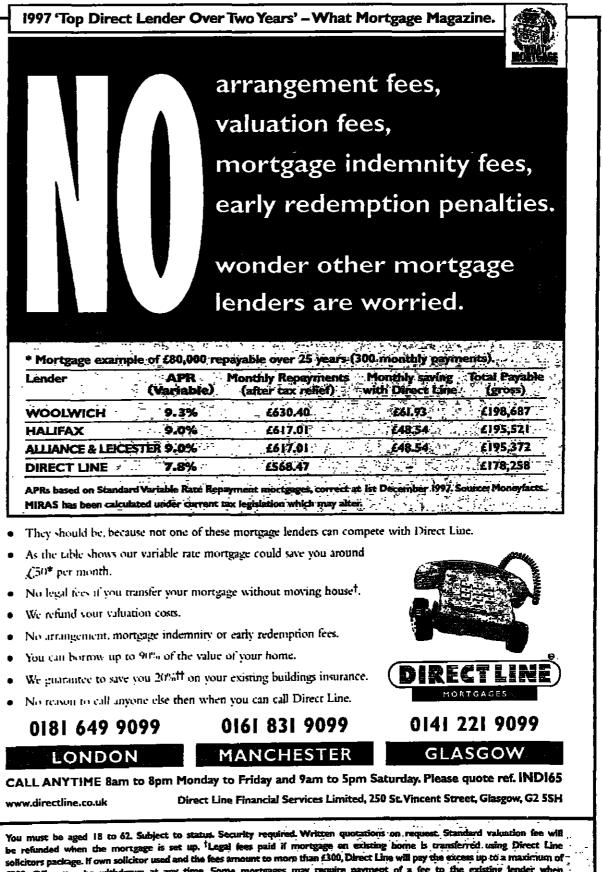
Was it so? When Iran lost to Qatar on 14 November, the enemies of newlyelected President Mohamed Khatami including Mohamed Nateq-Nouri, the man who lost to him - suggested that the feelings of Iranians had been "deeply hurt" and that the Khatami government should "make up for it". When Iran's team arrived home, it was a beaming President Khatami who let his people know how enthusiastically he had been following the Australian match.

As for the people, they went mad for joy. A few ladies, it was said, even joined their menfolk in dancing in the streets.



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Let's get ready to rumble! Camille Paglia, the American lesbian, intellectual and agent provocateur, hit England this week, with her gloves off. The Cambridge don Andy Martin was with her and rolled with the punches.

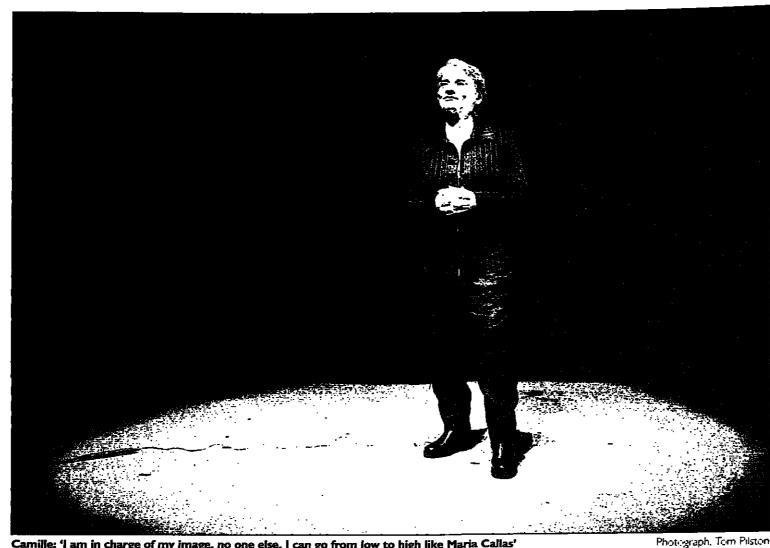
She describes herself as "an Amazonian feminist". Someone else once described her as feminism's answer to Mike Tyson. She has a reputation as a combative, pugilistic bruiser. I say this is ridiculous: I was with her off and on for two days and in all that whole time she hit hardly anyone. In fact, to my knowledge Camille Paglia only really whacked one person during the entire period of her flying visit to England. And

Monday 9am Start the Week, Radio 4. "If a man offends," threatens Paglia, "a woman has to deal with him on the spot in word and deed." Fear and trembling: Melvyn Bragg is duly respectful, Alan Sillitoe feebly claims that novels have nothing to say about feminism; visiting American military historian refuses to engage on this field of battle: "I occupy an enclave." Weak stuff - no wonder Paglia comes back with: "Whatever happened to men? We have produced an entire generation of whingeing, whining boys." Maybe Hemingway could have handled her. Or Bogart, or possibly Mailer.

10am Nicky Campell Show, Raimage, no one else. I can go from dio 5. Paglia affirms that she is low to high like Maria Callas, but a penis-loving lesbian and offers Pm not going to do it." The producer tries to placate her, which advice on the institution of the office party: "I believe that a parenrages her. "That's it! I've had it - I've nothing more to say." ty should be a dionysian orgy Exit, pursued by producer. wherever possible. I want people to be free to make a pass." She hymns the male organ. Nicky Campell, taking this personally. brags about his own.

11 am "Gay and Lesbian London" interview. She hits out at leshas been in such a rut and blames "the lack of penises". It's

12.30pm. Queen Elizabeth Hall. them they want, the less women A Channel 4 film crew want her want them"; (2) post-modernism, to do some riffs on the theme of with its equivocation over gender the "new emotionalism" in England. They get more emotion than they bargained for. "I don't and women are strong. Men want to have to lose my temper," she says, losing it over a missing radio mike. "I have no time for this achievement and put it into 11pm Post-lecture dinner. Beat-



Camille: 'I am in charge of my image, no one else. I can go from low to high like Maria Callas'

templative and non-abrasive on ry if it's going to come out

lecture of all time," says the woman next to me. Fiona, who mikes go to three or four women, who launch a series of complaining of patriarchy (no men dare to speak). Paglia at first tries to answer ("I demand the Battle of the Sexes". The Hall is freedom to risk rape"). then packed out, 1,000 inside and claims to be unable to hear, more trying to get in. She puts a then experiments with abuse only attracted to women who are Enlightenment, which she sees as tions or are you just going to attracted to men." She regrets a story of the gradual equalisa- stand there and whinge?"), and that heterosexual pornography tion of the rights of men and finally explodes: "This audience women. With only two major does not impress me. There must be some intelligent people storms off stage. Fiona is distraught: "What a lot of tits they are! Why don't they read her books?" She goes off to have hers autographed by Paglia. In the foyer a woman whips off her top and bares her breasts. It is some kind of protest but nobody is sure what

this!" Paglia is cool and con- a black box, you're bound to wor- rix Campbell, who has hosted the in Cambridge now, leave the me- antis: one woman accuses her of she is a knock-out.

brand of militant individualism. makes a bitter departure: "I

Question-time. "That was the is wearing an "I love Camille Paglia" T-shirt. "It is impossible to contradict her. Other women on her in the first place. Now they think it is possible. The floor are both standing up and Paglia personal attacks on her, barely veiled in mazy, hazy questions, a would-be arm-lock, masbians who don't like men. "I'm positive spin on history since the ("Madam, do you have any ques- Andy!" But, having used me as studied exotic dancing at close like hearing an atheist praise wave of feminism, characterised out there. No?! Goodbye." She in Sexual Personae: "the dionysian 1.30pm. Cambridge. As soon as she arrives in Trinity, Newsnight is on the phone, clamouring to

film her lecture tonight, no doubt anticipating more fireworks. She she's protesting about. turns them down flat (but they continue to pursue her relent-

lecture, but can't take Paglia's dia frenzy to London. I want to concentrate on art."

5pm, Lady Mitchell Hall, Packed thought your lecture was banal again. Professor Paglia moves and conservative." Paglia blames Abigail Appleton, the BBC profrom the dionysian to the more apollonian mode for her lecture ducer, for letting Campbell loose on "Art and Culture". With a bare minimum of notes, she improvises brilliantly on nothing less is shaping up to take a swing at than everything, ranging over hisher. I wrap my arm around tory from sphinxes to the Spice voung Paglia's shoulder from behind in Girls, from Katherine Hepburn querading as a propitiatory emto Finnegan's Wake, art and scibrace. It was a dumb move. ence and urination. She is sweepasking for trouble. Versed in ing and incisive, scholarly and subjective, monumental and vimartial arts, she elbows me. sionary. Plus she is probably the throws off my grip, and starts raining blows. "Keep out of this." only visiting lecturer who has her punchbag, she sits down at quarters for Penthouse magathe table again. The storm has zine and has a potent command passed. I miss the last train home of body language. She would have made a great stand-up comediand a passing office party reveller throws up over me. As Paglia says an. She's as quick with a nunchline as she is with a punch.

> 6pm. Questions. Paglia has recruited me to act as "moderator", screening potentially hostile questions. But how am I supposed to know if a question is going to be hostile before it is asked? As it turns out, my only real problem is bringing it to a close. Cries go up of, "We want

being "nostalgic" for learning. She pleads guilty. A man says she is "heartless". When one student inquires whether we need an epistemological revolution to revalidate the concept of knowledge and experience, she agrees but

gramme with Jane Asher and advocates dumpling rolling for the The audience loves her. The faculty love her for her reaffirmation of the virtues of crudition. The undergraduates love her for embracing television, rock

music and and the internet.

manages to bring in by way of

confirmation a cooking pro-

The audience only leave her alone after I reveal that she can he contacted at www.salonmagazine.com, where she is an intellectual agony aunt offering conline advice for the culturally disgruntled". Having checked her recent stuff, she must be first columnist to write a piece about Iraq that manages to fulminate more against Michel Foucault than Saddam Hussein.

ltpm. Post-lecture dinner. She takes out her blood-lust on a plateful of liver this time. She has been ostracised by the academic establishment form Berkeley lessly throughout the day). "I'm Camille." There are only two real to Harvard. But in Cambridge

Want a date? No problem it's all part of the job

A company that is offering free enrolment with a dating agency to lovelorn employees means well - but it could all end in tears, says Clare Gamer.

If my bosses offered to pay for me to date my heart out, it would be fine by me. However, I have to say, they would be ill-advised to see it as an investment. Frankly, once I fell in love, the company could forget it. Hard work would immediately slip off the bottom of my list of priorities and hour upon hour would be wasted with me staring dreamily into the middle distance, cooing with my loved one on the telephone or sending passionate

But presumably Pertemps Recruitment Partnership, an employment bureau that is offering free enrolment in a dating agency as part of its corporate package, is expecting some return for its services. To them the equation is simple: love interest equals happiness equals better employee.

From January, a third of Pertemps' 700 permanent employees will be given the novel corporate perk. "Our motivation is that if we can find them someone, we can make them happier," said Tim Watts, the chairman. "We have found the divorcees can become enormously miserable. If we can get them back on track we hope they will feel happier and do a better job."

The scheme is well-intentioned. Scientific evidence suggests that those in long-term relationships are happier than single or divorced people. A study by Roy Baumeister, professor of psychology at Case Western University, in Ohio, showed that those who are in happy relationships worry less about work failure and are less likely to feel unappreciated at work. They generally do not allow work to interfere with friendships or health and enjoy their holidays. Given the choice, they would choose a successful relationship over a successful career.

But, I wonder, have Pertemps really thought this one through? Going on blind dates is at best distracting and at worst depressing. Yet another lunch with yet another misfit is a pretty demoralising process and waiting for the call that never comes when Mrs Wronged finally meets Mr Right is even worse. Even assuming that the mission is accomplished and a successful match is made. Will the object of desire work harder? Hardly.

In fact, I fail to see the plus side for employers. Just think of the sickies Ms Previously Wed To Her Work will take because she is, well, just too tired from the night before. Think of the company phone bill, although, granted, it would work out cheaper than all those illicit 0898 work calls to the dating agency. And there are no prizes for guessing who will be skipping out of the door on the dot of six, regardless of whether the work is done.

And what happens three months down the line, when the relationship starts to fray at the edges and the wonderful new life that Ms PWTHW never knew she could have begins to fall apart? Surely it is only fair that Pertemps pick up the pieces at the other end by providing free counselling with Relate.

Paul Gilbert, professor of clinical psychology at Derby University, says companies should not see finding partners for employees as a cure-all. Far from the newl luvved-up feeling full of newfound confidence and energy that brings a sparkle not only to their eyes but to their work, Professor Gilbert says the early stages can be "quite a stressful time" and "quite anxiety-provoking".

Furthermore, falling in love "won't be good for those who are going to say: 'Stuff work. I'm more interested in my love affair' ... Then there are the people who think it's great for the first six months and then the relationship breaks up and they're depressed and on Prozac and can't face the office."

What's good for health is not good for business. "If you're looking for high flying executives who are going to give 120 per cent, you want them to be living off adrenalin. They must be hard-edged and not too involved in intimate relationships," said Professor Gilbert. "The real high achievers are being rewarded for not paying attention to their relationships. They marry the firm."

of Cop. the balls are ten the station place.

(A) 172

We opener

We've been going out for five years but I can't face moving in with him

DILEMMAS



VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

llse's been going out with her boyfriend for five years. Now he wants her to give up her flat and live with him. One day she's sure they'll marry, so why does she feel such anxiety about living together, when as it is they're often staying at each other's homes?

Do nothing: that's a piece of advice threat that she's feeling now, I'll be that's rarely given but is often the best piece of advice of all. It is, after all, the piece of advice that's least easy to give because we all, not just agony aunts, want to tell people to do things to make life better for them or to help put them

camera. "Can we do it again?"

says the director. "This time

more the way you attacked me."

She erupts. "I am in charge of my

7.30pm The Queen Elizabeth

Hall. Radio 3's Sounding the

Century lecture, "The Modern

blips: (1) the puritanical second

by "male-bashing": "the more

men accept what feminists tell

and just about everything else.

fear women: "An erection is a

kind of achievement: if you take

She argues that men are weak

out of their misery. But in Ilse's case "do nothing" is surely the best reply. What's in it for her if she gives up her flat and moves in with her boyfriend? Small wonder she's full of trepidation. She will be giving up her independence; he will be giving up none of his. She will be moving into a place with his furniture, his posters on the walls, his manky old saucepans, his telephone - and although she may move some pieces of furniture of her own, and the odd picture, she will still basically be on his territory, a territory that he has metaphorically sprayed with his own smells, a territory in which his is the name on the lease, a territory for which he is ultimately responsible.

Obviously it will make life easier for them in some ways if they lived in either her place or his. None of those ghastly little bags of toothbrush, nightie, clean pants and tights, mousse, Nurofen to be lugged from place to place every other night; none of that slogging back to his or her place in the cold mornings to check the post and the messages before going to work; but maintaining the situation as it is, however inconvenient, is a small price to pay for her own

independence. How would he feel, for instance, if she suggested that he move in with her? Exactly the same thudding heart, sweat on the brow and instinctive feeling of tain the status quo.

bound. "What would I do if we split up?" he'd be thinking. "Where would

I had a friend who moved in with her boyfriend under similar terms. Luckily, just before she completed the deal on the sale of her flat, he showed his true colours. He wanted everything to be the same in his house and nothing to be changed at all. His old boxing gloves still hung on a peg in the bathroom despite her entreaties that he keep them in a drawer; the photos of his old girlfriends remained Pritstuck to the walls in the loo, he refused the offer of a dirty clothes basket and his old habits grew worse. Knowing that she was safely at his home when he went out he would return later and later and drunker and drunker. When they had their final showdown he uttered those words that must have always been lurking at the back of his mind: "I'll do what I like!" he shouted. "It's my flat!"

Marriage is, of course, quite a different kettle of fish to living together. If they were married they'd probably get rid of both their flats and move into a new place. They would start off as equals, dedicated to making a completely new home together, emphasis on the word "together". Even if they were to move into one of each other's homes, they'd still be on a far more equal footing.

Until the situation moves into this new dimension lise would be losing everything, and gaining nothing by moving in with her boyfriend. Far better, for the moment, to sit tight and re-

WHAT READERS SAY

Explore your true feelings about this relationship

There's something intrinsically empowering about going out with someone but living separately. Living with someone only works if you can completely be yourself with them, let go and relax without fear of saying or doing the wrong thing, and without feeling that this other person is invading your personal space.

Personally I've always thought that when it's the right person, it feels right - you don't need to try. You say you're wary of living with this bloke, but you don't say why, other than this nebulous hint of not wanting to give up your own flat.

What's going to change to make you want to live with him in the future? Is it the ring you're after, the commitment and vague promise of happy ever after? I think you should explore

your flat on for a couple of months and stay round at his to test the water. It'd be better to know now whether or not you're compatible than to create a sugary edifice of marriage and have it crumble around you. Leyla Sanai

your true feelings about this

bloke. Perhaps you could keep

Your home is a symbol of

your independence I was in a similar position to yours a few years ago, imagining I might move in with my then boyfriend. A vivid and disturbing dream changed my mind. I was in my house, distraught, watching as removal men packed up and shifted all my belongings. I couldn't understand why I was having to leave my own home, which I loved and which was so

been made by others and I had to go along with it. I was mightily relieved when I awoke and found that I didn't "have" to

Your feelings of unease about moving in with your boyfriend say it all. Trust them and stay where vou are.

. Juliet King-Smith London SE7

Don't put the cart before the horse

There is that well-known quotation from Punch magazine-"Advice to persons about to marry - 'Don't'." Ilse should take the same advice, as it were - "Advice to young ladies who are asked to give up their independence before marriage - 'Don't'." What more can one say?

She should follow her instinct important to me. In the dream, and not do it. The cart is being London NW2

it was as though the decision had put before the horse. If there is anything in their relationship it Will survive.

Living together should feel like a natural progression

First, Ilse, why do you feel that you "obviously will [marry] someday", when you have been together for five years and yet still feel alarmed at the prospect of living together? It should be a natural progression and so it appears to me that you are not ready.

Second, why is it you who has to give up your flat. Maybe this is the real crux of the problem. If you were to find a new flat to live where you were both starting off on common ground, you might see the situation in a different light. Ms M Kiernan

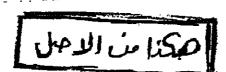
NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia, I'm a young guy in my mid-twenties and have often felt that I'm a bit different. like women and this has torn me lationship with another guy for apart because one day I want to a while even if I know it won't be married and have children. last a lifetime and my attentions Letters are welcome, and everyone

called a number in a Lonely a while? Should I ring this guy be sent a bouquet from Interflora. minutes to a guy who wanted a From my early teens I've felt at- loving, romantic relationship, and settle straight away for a het-Am I wrong to want a caring re-Yours sincerely, Ben

back so at least I've given it a try. or should I forget this whole idea erosexual relationship?

Send comments to me at the Features Department, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (fax: 0171-293 2182) by Tuesday mom-Maybe I'm bisexual? I recently will go to the opposite sex after who has a suggestion quoted will to share, please let me know. ing. And if you have a dilemma of your own that you would like



nroiment employees in tears.

ate my heart out. to say, they would at. Frankly, once et it. Hard work of my list of pn. wasted with me ince, cooing with nding passionate

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Eye-opener - now you see what they see in Seifert

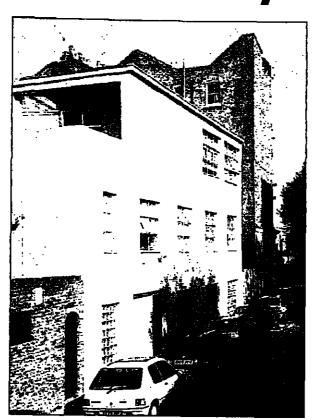
In the Sixties, when his buildings rose, brutally dominating the London skyline, few had a good word for the works of Colonel Richard Seifert Least of all architects, aesthetes and style leaders. But, says Nonie Niesewand, perhaps his style moment has come.

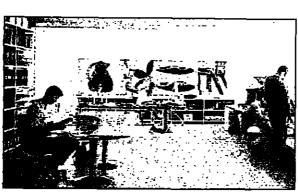
Colonel Richard Seifert's Sixties buildings are hardly considered London's smartest places. For decades they were a blot on the landscape. So large. So brutal. Not the world's wisest property investment. The massive ones, like Centre Point at the bottom of New Oxford Street, became national scandals.

At first sight, a Seifert's late-Fifties leather tannery warehouse in Notting Hill gate is not an inspiring place. But behind a two-storeyed chunky industrial brick face, it hides its huge open spaces of 1,200 sq ft. The Polish architect Miska Miller and her husband, the designer Ross Lovegrove, have made it their office and their home. Miller admits: "I'm not a big lover of this period, the Sixties in London. I mean, it was a distortion of wonderful modernist ideas that frequently lost the proportions." But she likes the way that the factory was planned to go horizontally, not vertically like so many London

Its stolid concrete and steel structure meant they couldn't do much about changing the internal layout. Just putting in a staircase took a lot of nerve and a week of power drilling. Because their practice is on the ground floor, and they sleep and bathe above, they added an open-plan third floor, which mirrors exactly Seifert's al light, and bigger windows that proportions.

respected over here these days. in more light to the top floor. They are good projects to build upon because they are so hon- see the virtues of Seifert's buildest. But this doesn't have the "ings and enjoy them. For a





clarity of construction and feeling of lightness or the wonderful use of materials that I really

The biggest change they made was to cover the outer brickface in a sandy naturalcoloured render to lighten it up. They added glass blocks at the ground floor to help the naturfollow the same grid as Seifert's Warehouses by Seifert are on the next floor. Rooflights let

Other people are starting to

start, there's that big open horizontal grid he built on. Scifert, in his 87th year, is around to hear the good news. He still goes into work almost every day.

Perhaps the first person to spot the Seifert virtues was the Frenchman Patrick Dermoy, A decade ago he opened his furniture and interior design shop Atrium, in a Scifert shell below Centrepoint - "in a wind tunnel but you learn to live with it".

He really wanted to live there, "I first saw it in 1985, all boarded up, just a big, empty box. There was absolutely noth-

ing in it, not even the mezzanine, let alone a phone-line, 17 years after Seifert had designed it. I asked my solicitors to get in touch with the landlord, who was Harry Hyams, but he

wouldn't rent it to me. Evenmodernist I did not want to go into premises which had been refurbished.

trepoint it was more than half empty. Now the whole place is full of financial comorations. But that marvellous horizontal plane. There was never any

doubt in my mind that we could keep to the spirit of the building and add to it."

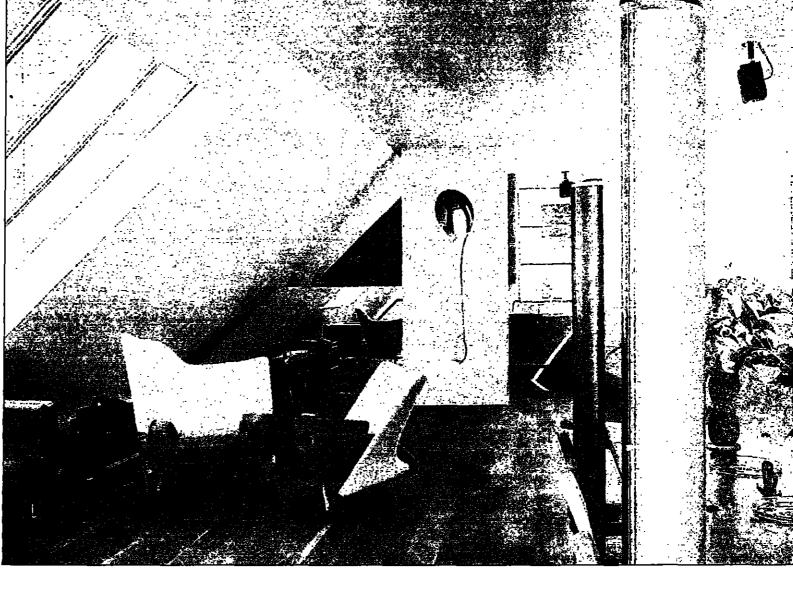
Once upon a time one would never have expected to hear an architectural expert talk enthusiastically about Centretually I wore him down. As a point: "It's like a Bridget Riley building that rises a mile high." says Dr Neil Bingham, assistant curator at the RIBA Heinz *When we moved into Cen- Gallery. Does this sound like the much revited Centrepoint build-

spectives of Richard Seifert's (0171-307/3605)

buildings from the Fifties, Sixties and Seventies. "These drawings are perfect time pieces of Colonel Seifert's pop buildings," he says. Perspectives from Seifert's practice drawn by his watercolourist, a certain Mr

Gill, include prelims of Centrepoint, the round Civil Aviation building at Aldwych, the Times Building, and a huge model of the Nat West tower

He is enthusiastic as he cat- RIBA Heinz Gallery is at 21 alogues a collection of per- Portman Square, London WI



Behind the stark Seifert façade, the designer Ross Lovegrove and the architect Miska Miller have made a beautifully enjoyable place where they work and live Photographs: Jeremy Cockayne/ Arcaid

World Cup: the balls are leather, the stadium plastic

The new stadium in Paris where the World Cup Final will be played next summer is mostly PVC. Why didn't the environmentalists get stuck in, asks Nonie Niesewand

There's no doubt that the venue for the World Cup Final next summer, a new 80,000-seat stadium, north of Paris at Saint Denis, is a tri- PVC. The roof is weighted umph of engineering and a beautiful thing. It is also built almost entirely of PVC. It's enough to make any Green see red.

Greenpeace have targeted PVC on high-profile. quick turn-around projects such as the Sydney Olympic stadium and the Millennium Dome, both to be completed in 2000, and they have been successful. Sydney has replaced all PVC piping with clay. At Greenwich, even though the British government doesn't want to admit that Greenpeace's "Toxic Monster" claim influenced them, they pulled the contract for PVC from the German company Koch Hitex and gave it to the American BirdAir to supply coated glass fibre. Environmentalists object to the way PVC is made and the difficulty of disposing of it.

The reason given for changing the composition of the Millennium Dome was that it would have a longer shelf-life. Everyone cheered up at that. Maybe the dome would become a sports arena after all the celebrations.

But the PVC manufacturers resent that argument about longevity even more than the one about pollution. So when Le Stade was completed, all the rival manufacturers banded together to form the European Council of Vinyl Manufacturers and show off the stadium as date? Architect spokesman jures up.

René Provost was disappointingly vague: "I don't know exactly the life of the product," It's reckoned to be about 25 years. And a bitumen roof would have to be replaced in 10 years' time. So unless the French have scored an own goal they will have the most photographed stadium in the world. It is the basis for their bid for the 2006 Olympics.

Why didn't Paris feel the

heat? Above the spectators in Le Stade float 14,000 tons of with concrete sandwiched between the membranes, so it doesn't have lift off in a high wind. Below the pitch and running under the tiers of seats are 50,000 square meters of PVC sealing off the toxic wastes deep underground from its legacy as a gas site (Greenwich is twinned with Saint Denis in this respect). The kings of France buried just down the road in Saint Denis must be turning in their graves. When the grass on the pitch still turned yellow the authorities said it was the sand mix and zealous mowing. The irony is that to clean it up, a PVC membrane is laid over it. Then fumes are piped off and burnt

"All materials are scrutinised by environmental groups these days. But the choice of PVC wasn't an issue, any more than asbestos ceilings," Provost reports. In just 30 months the stadium

Provost is typically Gallic in his priorities. The appearance of PVC, "white and light, luminous", influenced their decision. As well as more mundane considerations: plasticity, lightweight, sealing abilities, implementation and supply.

That diaphanous quality is what makes such a gigantic building hover so agreeably above ground. Colour number 7035 is now named Le Stade and looks more like aeroplane the jewel in their plastic wings than the black bag lincrown. Does it have a sell-by ers that PVC somehow con-





Reader Evening at the Bluebird

INDEPENDENT / BLUEBIRD EVENING: TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER

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Recently tipped as Time Out's "best for foodies and gardeners", Bluebird food market has the perfect Christmas wrapped up. Their experienced staff can guarantee your table will be laden with the finest fare; free range turkeys and geese, cured hams, smoked fish and crustacea, farmhouse cheeses and fresh fruit and vegetables have been sourced from the best local producers from around the UK.

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> "It will be a really amazing evening" Terence Conran

> > Tickets subject to availability



GLENMORANGIE WOOD FINISHES For those who nose.

The Royal Opera is too important to leave to these amateurs



EDITOR: ANDREW MARK DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES. ADDRESS: I CANADA SQUARE. CANARY WHARF. LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171-345 2435

The overwhelming majority of the population cares not a tuppeny bit for opera and ballet, and therefore imagines the Covent Garden saga to be a distracting sideshow, of interest only to the effete and élite. They are wrong for two reasons. It matters, even to those who can't tell their Siegfried from their Sieglinde, because their money pays most of the bills. It also matters because the story shows how, for all the talk of Thatcher's handbags knocking the Establishment off its perch, important sectors of British life are still being run by backscratching, self-regarding and more or less amateurish cliques. The management of opera matters because the arts matter, and this whole story bears all the symptoms of what has historically been wrong with arts management in Britain. Moreover, it matters because quality culture attracts visitors, esteem, creates jobs, and reflects and deepens the nation's sensibilities.

That makes yesterday's report from the · House of Commons Culture Select Committee required reading. The committee's

chairman, Gerald Kaufman, is an exjournalist, whose instinct is to despise the usual politician's and committee clerk's instinct to couch their criticisms in ambiguous abstractions. This report is written with panache and larded with trenchant phrases. It also shows, not for the first time, that Mr Kaufman rides his hobby horses hard and warps his judgements to accommodate his personal prejudices. His criticisms none the less are on target.

For the past few years the Royal Opera House has been run by gents pretending to be players, notably Sir Jeremy Isaacs. Having once produced great television films. Sir Jeremy was translated into management positions requiring skills he did not possess and - this seems to be a peculiarly British establishment failing no one blew the whistle. What exactly is the role of the "lay" board which in theory supervises paid management, and who cries quis custodiet when the Great and the Good on it turn out to be incapable of doing the job? Here is a question which can and should be put to a host of public and voluntary sector bodies.

At the Opera, board and management took a sequence of decisions leading up to the closure for redevelopment which were wilfully obtuse. The Kaufman committee spends a lot of energy reviling Mary Allen, the recently-appointed chief executive. But for all the questions surrounding her appointment, the woman only arrived in September and neither she, nor the chairman, Lord Chadlington, who is only a year in post, can be held responsible for the financial deficits they inherited, nor the failure to find the opera and ballet companies satisfactory billets during the evacuation from Covent Garden.

But the Royal Opera House does not exist in a vacuum. It gets an annual grant from the Arts Council which is supposed, in its turn, to be supervised by the Department of Culture, Department of National Heritage, or the Office of Arts and Libraries, to name the three most recent Whitehall departments with the arts

remit. Mr Kaufman says it is not worth criticising Lord Gowrie, the Arts Council chairman, since he is going anyway. But will the system of monitoring be any better under his successor." Is there a valid case any longer for the administration of public money for the arts to be at arm'slength? When the Council started, in the 1940s, it seemed vital to prevent the state deciding how much should be spent on poetry rather than orchestral music. But now, when the politics of culture (and cultural polities) are so much closer to the mainstream of national life, would it really be so oppressive to have Mr Chris Smith and his officials cutting the cake and, most importantly, carrying the can? The present arrangement allows everyone to blame everyone else (in the politest pos-

sible way, of course). Faced with the debacle in the Garden, Mr Smith has already acted in interventionist spirit, by commissioning Sir Richard Eyre to report to him on the future of nationally-funded opera in the capital. In the light of the Kaufman report he needs to use his financial leverage to demand assurances. An honourable man in Lord Chadlington's position would not need to be pushed, he would go - British public life has had enough of Conservative public relations men for the time being. He may not have caused the chaos, but he has been lackadaisical in restoring order. Ms Allen has not had time to prove her mettle: let her continue, provided she can demonstrate that a tight financial regime is now in place. As for Covent Garden's board, a careful clear-out is recommended, retaining supporters of real value such as Vivien Duffield, and stern chaps, such as Bob Gavron, but otherwise starting with folk of more determined mien.

The Royal Opera must hold down the hatches this winter season, and then, starting next year, separate the opera and ballet companies for good, reanimate the repertoire and ensure that the vitality of opera as a living art form starts to manifest itself once more in Floral Street.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

BSE inquiry

Sir: A public inquiry into the BSE disaster is on the verge of being announced. As the parents of Stephen Churchill, the first and, as yet, youngest death from human BSE (new variant CJD) we take this opportunity to remind those making the decisions that the inquiry must be held by a judge, as it is imperative that it should have the right to subpoena both people and documents, and the judge must have the authority to inquire into any matter that he sees fit, in order to seek the truth about what has happened.

Whilst we are but one family we speak on behalf of all the families touched by this tragedy. Today we grieve for 23 deaths but others are being nursed as we write. To have the right quality of inquiry is essential otherwise we the families, the nation and Europe will only see a lower level of inquiry as being yet another cover-up. perpetuating what went before under the Conservative government.

We as families seek only the truth. We do not wish for a scapegoat from today's administration but for the real guilty parties to be brought to book. In addition we must all learn from the mistakes made so that a tragedy of this magnitude never happens again. DAVID CHURCHILL DOROTHY CHURCHILL Devizes, Wiltshire

Royal Opera House

Sir: Tonight (3 December) the Royal Ballet represents the United Kingdom at the festivities marking the reopening of the Teatro Real in Madrid. From Friday the Royal Opera contributes to the Year of Opera and Music Theatre in East Anglia with performances of Britten's Paul Bunvan, Both events represent the essence, quality and range of the Royal Opera House and its performing companies.

That Mary Allen, our chief executive since September, should be so vilified in today's select committee report scorns the efforts and achievements of the entire organisation during this difficult period of transition. Under Ms Allen's leadership, we are facing up to our problems, restructuring management and financial systems, and developing economically vi-able artistic plan that will enable us to return to Covent Garden with a programme that

does justice to our redeveloped theatre. That our development continues on time and on budget, while our fundraising has been more successful than any oth-Royal Ballet er comparable capital campaign, demonstrates the commitment of very many people to achieving our goals. We will do this best through our own endeavours, by strong management and leadership.

support. Sir ANTHONY DOWELL Director of the Royal Ballet KEITH COOPER Director of Sales and Marketing RICHARD HALL Director of Finance JOHN HARRISON Technical Director MIKE MORRIS Director of Personnel NICHOLAS PAYNE

We could have no better cham-

pion of our cause than Ms

Allen, who has our unreserved

Director of the Royal Opera PHYLLIDA RITTER Director of the Friends of Covent Garden ANTHONY RUSSELL-ROBERTS Administrative Director of the

JOHN SEEKINGS Development Director MALCOLM WARNE HOLLAND Orchestra Director Royal Opera House London WC2

University fees

Sir: While you rightly remind your readers of the reasons why we have had to reform university funding and the fairness which is built into our proposals, you suggest that we have failed to inform potential students properly (leader, 3 December). This is not the case.

I have been ready to discuss them and write about them at every opportunity. While there was some controversy in August

over gap year students - which we speedily resolved in their favour - it is absurd to suggest that we have been failing to put forward both the arguments and the nature of the new scheme.

We have already issued over half a million leaflets to sixth forms and further education colleges. We have established a free helpline - 0800 731 9133 and a website infot@dfee.gov.uk. We have pro-

vided schools and colleges with posters highlighting the belpline number and we have taken out prominent newspaper and radio advertisements.

Of course there are difficulties in tackling misinformation when a new system is introduced, and given the previous government's unwillingness to tackle the university funding crisis there were bound to be. But students and universities are already seeing the benefits of change, with an extra £165m for next year to improve standards and access.

This will allow us to double access funds, helping part-timers in particular, to exempt postgraduate teaching students from course fees and to provide an extra £250 hardship loan to

those who need it. DAVID BLUNKETT Secretary of State for Education and Employment House of Commons London SW7

Sir: Thank you for your praise in your leader on student tuition fees. But contrary to your implication, it is not the intention of the National Union of Students to frighten would-be students away from higher education to make a point in our campaign; the evidence is clear that the prospect of paying university tuition fees is killing ambition among poten-

tial students. Parents will not be relieved of their contribution towards their offspring's living costs. Access to part of the mainteloan will

means-tested, so better off families will be denied the cheaper state loans.

PRIESTLEY

Minimum wage

Sir: Ian McCartney, Minister of

State at the Department of

Trade and Industry, is not exactly

correct when he states (Letters,

1 December) that "all sectors of

business also support the prin-

The bulk of Britain's busi-

nesses are either micro (less than

10 employees) or small (less than

50) and some 97 per cent em-

ploy fewer than 20. While these

may support a reasonable wage

negotiated at local level, many

worry that if a statutory, national

minimum wage is set too high

then many will have to shed staff.

imum wage applies only to in-

dustry and is set so low that

employers pay it anyway. Despite

promises to help small busi-

nesses, we are still to be made

criminals, fined and penalised.

Trade and Industry Policy Unit

Federation of Small Businesses

BERNARD JUBY

Chairman

London SWI

The much-vaunted US min-

ciple of a minimum wage".

The tuition fee is the real deterrent. This must be paid up front by those parents assessed to pay all or part of it, and contrary to the repeated assertions by backbench Labour MPs in the media, there will not be a loan for the tuition fee. The Government have made this clear to us and clear to sixth formers and other would-be students in their leaflets, letters and other promotional materials, but the message has not been given to their own representatives, prolonging the confusion over the terrible plan for

tuition fees. It is time for the Government to go back to the drawing board. There is no point inventing a new system of university funding unless you can persuade people to study. DOUGLAS TRAINER

National President National Union of Students London N7

Green Japan

Sir You describe Japan as "a wasteful country, with a poor record on recycling" ("Japan fears a bumpy ride on road to climate deal", 1 December). All evidence here points to the con-

At railway stations there are separate rubbish bins for newspapers, cans and bottles. Similarly at offices and in the Japanese home, rubbish must be separated into categories, otherwise it will not be taken away. It is common here for neighbours to search through offending rubbish in order to find an envelope with the address of the depositor on, in order to return it.

There are recycling facilities at supermarkets for items such as milk cartons (which must first he washed and cut and laid flat. I'm not kidding.) There are also special rubbish collection days for items such as batteries and polystyrene. PETER JUETT

Saitama, Japan

Sir: Nicholas Schoon is right to ask what difference it will make to have information on air pollution made more widely available ("Appliance of science to smog alerts", 20 November). The answer, of course, is that those who suffer ill-health because of traffic fumes, up to 15 million in the UK, will now know when to stay as prisoners in their own homes.

Michael Meacher may take pride in a reporting system that leads the world, but the desperate need now is not for information on how poisonous the air is, but for clean air itself. The Government must commit itself to reducing pollution by tackling the causes of pollution, in particular traffic. ANDY SPRING

Enfield. Middlesex

After the hunt

Sir: I think it is absolutely right and proper that an MP should put a Bill through Parliament outlawing the premeditated, conscious and appalling abuse of helpless animals perpetrated for the relish of an unenlightened section of the population. I look forward to the introduction of the Cruelty to Animals (Battery Farming) Act. ALAN BURLES London SW11

For those who still haven't done their Christmas shopping, a few life-savers ...



KINGTON

As Christmas creeps ever closer, bringing with it the age-old message that if only you keep your nerve it will very soon be Boxing Day, it's time for another round of help with your Christmas gift problems. Yes, let us go bravely once more into the Independent Christmas Bazaar and see what new things are on the market this year, for the person who can't think of anything to get for the people who seem to have everything! Australian Father Christmas

As anyone who has ever dressed up as Father Christmas will testify, the costume can be death to wear - heavy, hot, scratchy and smelly. Not with a summer-style Pather Xmas set of clothes from Down Under! Down there they know all about slim-line, drip-dry, non-crease summer wear, and you'll revel in the slinky freedom of your midsummer beachwear-style Santo Claus outfit! Ideal for summer fancy dress parties too! Comes in three styles: outback, barbecue, and Bondi Beach. Corks are extra. Only £99.99.

Unique Magazine Subscription

A magazine subscription is always a good idea. but it's hard to think of the right magazine to send someone. All the best magazines seem to have gone out of business years ago, don't they? And that's where we come in, because we have collected complete runs of many of the best mags of the past, and can now arrange for a 12-month subscription to such classics as Lilliput, Illustrated London News, Men Only and pre-war Punch. From £1,500.99 a

Crossword Pyjamas Why did nobody ever think of

this before? The perfect gift for the insomniac! Yes, each pair of pyjamas has a large format crossword printed on it, so that if you wake up at night and can't drop off again, you can pit your wits against your own night wear, and tackle the clues up and down your body! And for the saucier siesta, you and your partner can both wear a pair, and you're likely to need. Parac-

explore each other's contours in a thoroughly physical yet intellectual way! Comes in three crossword shades: Concise, Moderate and Difficult. Thoroughly washable. Solutions on back_£39,99.

Christmas First Aid Hamper It's one of the perennial delights of Christmas time, the traditional hamper with its puddings and pies, its mincemeat and marrons glacés, its chocolates and cheeses! Unfortunately, this always brings ills in its train, from indigestion to beartburn, from dyspepsia to dysentery. And that's why we've assembled this special Xmas hamper stuffed, not with food, but with all the medical aids etamol, fizzy white powder. laxatives, and powerful ourges, yes, but bandages, splints and tongue-scrapers too! A Phestive Pharmacy Phountain! Free nurse's hat comes with it. The ideal gift for the hypochondriac in your family. £59,99,

Bonzai Family Tree Kit Many people who set out to explore their own family tree give up the chase when the task seems too great, the ramifications too vast. Now, with this miniature Japanese-style family tree, you need only explore two generations, or less. Ideal for adopted people, those with revolting relations. etc etc. £39.99

Vintage Television Evening Was television really better

back in the old days? No, of course it wasn't - it was rubbish, just like it is now - but for the person who keeps going on about how good it used to be, this video of an entire evening's viewing from 1959 will be the corrective needed. Includes dreary interview with Harold Macmillan, highlights of nil-nil draw between Notts County and Sheffield Wednesday, cookery programme on dumplings. documentary called Will There Ever be a Channel Tunnel?, etc, etc. Fascinating? No, but he'll never admit it! £69.99. Boxed set of three. The Xmas Files

Yes, the first book to combine the allure of the paranormal with the mystery of Christmas.

In this new adventure, our X File sleuth pays a time visit to AD0. Why have they gone to AD0? Because something very strange is happening. A little baby has been born, apparently with no father. Voices appear in the sky, proclaiming his coming kingdom. Many babies are slain. Three wise men appear, then vanish. And is that a star? Or something more sinister? Gradually the Files sleuths uncover a plot emanating from somewhere else, codename Heaven, to make us all better people. Should they blow it sky high? Or turn a blind eye? This season's best-seller! Full price £29.99, then mysteriously remaindered in the week after Christmas at £2.99.

The figure in black that is stalking Whitehall



AARONOVITCH LABOUR'S RADICAL AGENDA

It pleases the social stratum of which I am a member (well-paid professionals), journalists, lawyers, professors and allied trades) to believe that this is a hollow government. Others (like the Daily Mail and the Sun) may be fooled by Tony's plausibility and the alchemy of his spinners, but not us. We are sophisticates who watch Newsnight, listen to Today and whose trained eyes see the wires that hoist sparkling Blairismo, invisibly, to the top of the proscenium. It is all, we tell each other at parties, a pretty confection of focus groups and popular instinct, projected through smoke and mirrors. There is nothing authentic there. Yesterday, my colleague Boris Johnson (who, along with the crime reporting, the tales of village life and the unintentionally hilarious editorials, is one of the best things about the Daily Telegraph) used the Minister without Portfolio's appearance in front of the Culture Select Committee, as a launching pad for an extended metaphor involving the Dome and the Government itself. He concluded that "This dome is not intended to be a monument to posterity ... like so much Labour politics, [it] is all about mood."

This perception is clearly shared on the left. Journalists express amazement that vast sums of money are not being found for all their pet concerns, from public transport to single mums. Radicalism for them means a simple return to the ancient verity of throwing dosh at the poor via benefit and social services. In hope, they followed Labour through a two-year election campaign without really believing a word of what they were told. And when the size of the majority was announced, they proclaimed a sea-change, sat back and waited for the tax and benefit increases. Now they think that there is nothing there. save for Brown's frown and Blair's smile.

But my advice is to look more carefully through the smoke, to where a vision has appeared, and is gradually taking on substance. It has a tall hat, this figure; it favours black clothes, wears buckled shoes and carries a well-thumbed copy of the Bible. Far from having no fixed view on life in Britain, it has some very coherent after, the full implications of this radithoughts on the subject which - bit by bit calism may only become clear as the years - it will share with us, as and when we are pass. On May 1 we partied; now the first mature enough to understand.

This is the apparition that determined that the cut to single parents' benefits must stay. For all Harriet Harman's protestations about "hard choices" and the oftrepeated litany about staying inside the previous government's spending figures, the money could easily have been found to pay it. Look at the way pensioners the country over will be sitting in front of their electric fires this winter, mumbling "Gor bless yer, Mr Brahn" to the generous chancellor who gave them that fifty extra pounds.

But the single parents didn't get their money. Why? Because the Government did not want to increase the benefit to them of staying out of work. They could have the expensive child care and lots of it, oh yes. But not for sitting on their fannies, bringing up kids to whom the world of work was alien, and who become useless adults believing that the state really does owe them a living. Like Mrs Thatcher, the Government - for all its crinkly smiles - is not happy with us as we are. It does not think that we are a great bunch of people who simply need a bit more spent on us all. Tony and Gordon and Jack, believe that - frankly - many of us need a bit of a hand from them to help us behave better: as citizens, pupils, parents, consumers and workers. Then we will be able to build the Great Society.

But, as Polly Toynbee's recent article on the great Wisconsin welfare reform made clear, this remoralisation does not come cheap. It costs a lot to get people standing on their own two feet. There must be priorities. So, this week we have had Chancellor Brown getting in among the Tessas and the Peps. The biggest savers (who are also, naturally, the richer among us) will lose out on some tax relief. But those who are less wealthy will be helped - cajoled into good, thrifty habits. Virtue among the humble must be rewarded. And the humble must be protected too. Yesterday, just a day later. Jack Straw published his Crime and Disorder Bill, aimed specifically at dealing with the young offender and the disturber of society's peace. David Blunkett's big education bill, to force up standards in the main run of state schools, will follow lat-

Government has indicated that it will not be waylaid by sentimental impedimenta. It knows that no administration is going to abolish private schools, however much its members may dislike them. That being so, how much more sensible it is to draw them into a relationship with the state sector - and guilt trip them into the Giving Society, where they can jolly well help the humble. And if they don't give? Then they will have forfeited some of their political support, and may well lose their charitable status. If you accept all this, then you can see that this government may indeed be a radical one. But, as with the Thatcherite seizure of power of 1979 and bills are just beginning to come in.

And, like the most ruthless radicals, the

Nothing's so gripping as a good divorce, but we must hold back



POLLY TOYNBEE ON PRIVACY LEGISLATION

Now that was a good divorce. How we all enjoyed it, all the pure pleasure of gossip. No point pretending it wasn't fun.

Charles Spencer was a marked man from the day he attacked the press with such venom in front of all the world. Even as they printed sentimental pictures of him alone (except for photographers), palely loitering among the flowers on Diana's grave, we knew it wouldn't be long before they got him, whatever it took.

But who could have guessed that the man would deliver himself up, free, gratis and for nothing? Papers usually spend thousands of pounds on such stories - in round-the-clock surveillance, bribes and chequebook confessions. But not this time. He chose to walk into that courtroom and take off all his clothes in public, trading his public reputation for what he hoped would be paying out less money. And how the Windsors must have revelled in his humiliation, after what they'd had to take from him in stony silence at the

So the natural pleasure most of us take in a cracking good stothe usual guilt about the way the story was obtained. He could, as case heard in Britain where divorce proceedings are private. But no, he ticked the box marked Publicity. Of course Victoria Spencer didn't. Nor did. their four children: there were innocent victims, as there always

The grisly details of this divorce is a reminder that even in lurid cases, there's rarely a simple right or wrong in people's private lives. Indeed as time goes by, people themselves keep reassessing "the truth" of their own life stories, rewriting emotional history to suit their changing moods, becoming more forgiv-



ing or more angry, more selfaware or less. Complete truths don't emerge in courtroom battles nor in newspapers which is why the private can never be fairly reported in public.

Titillating stories about the private lives, loves and griefs of others are the stuff of journalism. Sometimes it is inevitable Paula Yates and Michael Hutchence - where people who live by the limelight cannot avoid dying and grieving in it too. Often though, the intrusion is utterly unwarranted, glossed over with family values unction to justify aggressive invasion of privacy. Of course we love reading this stuff, even if we disapprove ry was not, for once, tinged with at the same time. Ambiguity is human. The public says they hate it: MORI find 73 per cent his wife wished, have had the of people think the press intrudes too much into the private lives of public figures. And yet they buy the papers that do so most flamboyantly. Nothing odd about that - the law is there to stop us doing things we might do (even if we disapprove of them) were there no law to protect us

> against our worser selves. Now the Government is about to introduce a back-door privacy law, cack-handed, the wrong thing for the wrong reasons. For once, it unites those (few) of us in the press who favour privacy legislation, with the great majority who passionately oppose it. The Daily

ica in the Cold War years. It has

become the big You-should-

have-read-it-by-now choice of

the Christmas period. Even

though it's not actually pub-

lished until 9 January, the more

determinedly à la page of book-

ish commentators are singing its

praises in the Books of the Year

(that's 1997) features that now

Mail's leader denounced this act that would "gag the press under this privacy law that dare not speak its name" - true. The Sun called it "a threat to the free press" - which it is. For the Lord Chancellor has just admitted that, despite earlier denials, incorporating the European Convention of Human Rights will introduce a privacy law of the

worst possible kind. The story so far: in whatever pact, spoken or unspoken, Labour made with the devil before the election, it was made clear that no finger would be laid on the media. So Labour's new competition law will not tackle the Murdoch empire, although it is the most pernicious example of anti-competitive practice in Britain. Nor will the new Government subject him to the monopoly laws he was allowed to escape under the Tories, nor force him to divest himself of any of his overweening media ownership. Nor was Labour going to legislate on privacy - cowed by the mass opposition of all the press (bar this paper and the Guardian).

But Labour always said it would incorporate the Human Rights Convention. That convention has two warring clauses: Article 8 guarantees privacy for the citizen against intrusion by the state and its quangos, while Article 10 guarantees freedom of expression. At first

government advice was that the privacy article wouldn't touch the press: it concerned privacy from the state, not from a privately owned newspaper. Now, however, the Lord Chancellor has been embarrassed by a legal opinion that says that the voluntary press self-regulator, the Press Complaints Commission. could be regarded as a public body in law. That means a complainant could take the PCC to court for failing to give protection against some act of media intrusion. What's more, a privacy complainant could get an in-

junction to prevent publication. This means Justice Cocklecarrot will interpret privacy case by case, creating law in the worst possible way, according to their lordships' taste. The wording is so hazy, there's no way of knowing how it will go. But if a Robert Maxwell, who so adeptly used the libel laws, wanted to prevent intrusion on the privacy of his bank accounts he could seek an injunction, and if his invaded privacy were published, he could sue the PCC. There will be no "public interest" exemptions, and no distinction between prurient videos of MPs romping in their bedrooms and legitimate investigation of the whereabouts of employees' pilfered pension funds.

What's to be done? Human Rights legislation will be incorporated, so what we need now

is our own carefully thought-out privacy law. Opponents always say you can't separate legitimate investigative journalism from nosy prying. But you can. People's (legal) sex lives can be made private by prohibiting papers from publishing anything about them. On the other hand, suspected illegal activity could be investigated unrestrained. There'd be no need for arcane definitions of what is and isn't a private or a public space (currently the muddled PCC code implies that a beach in Brighton in summer may be public, but a Norfolk beach in winter might be deemed private). All that matters is what you can print. That would mean true confessions volunteered by an exlover would be just as out of bounds as a snooping camera over the parden wall. A strong public interest clause would only allow exposure of extreme sexual hypocrisy, not just of any old vicar or Tory MP, but only of some telly evangelist, a Dame Jill Knight or a Mary Whitehouse who made their living out of trumpeting family

It's time for the press and the Government to bite the bullet. Better far a privacy law argued out in detail in the House of Commons than a haphazard and dangerously catch-all privacy law botched together by the whim of judges.

Of course the Turner Prize should really have gone to the chat show

IOHN WALSH



I've long been a fan of "installation pieces", those frightfully elever descendants of the tableaux vivants that amused provincial art lovers in the Thirties. And knowing that Ms Gillian Wearing was on the shortlist for the Turner Prize, I switched on Channel Four on Tuesday night with lively interest. Ms Wearing, let me remind those in the slow lane of art appreciation, is an installationist of striking inventiveness. One of her recent pieces, 60 Minute Silence, is a gripping, hourlong video of a platoon of police officers posing in fidgety silence for the camera. In a piece for The Guardian the other day, she explained how she'd seen a chap on a beach firing a gun at a passing 747 and how this represented a complicated statement about impotence and technology. Ms Wearing can be relied on to make an installation out of anything.

Since it was well after 11 pm when I tuned in. I feared I might have missed the Turner Prize ceremony, but evidently I had not. For there on screen was the most chillingly satirical installation piece you could wish for, a portrayal of the British art world with the title. "Is Painting Dead?". It took the form of a "discussion", by turns hilarious and surreal, among a group of grotesquely lampooned "art commissus", some vaguely identifiable. One man bore a resemblance to Sir Norman Rosenthal, the eminent boss of the Royal Academy, but had been transformed (with some satirical intent, presumably) into a figure of Petronian

blazoned with lipstick kisses. Another figure looked as if it might once have been Roger Scruton, the distinguished philosopher, but it too had been humorously adjusted to resemble a dandified cadaver in a marmalade fright wig and a wing collar. A growly Burl Ives wannabe with a beard did a nassable impersonation of David Sylvester, but the only really lifelike one was Waldemar Januszczak, late of the Late Show. A vision of stroppy artcollege-debating-society contentiousness in a yellow how-tie, he was just like the real thing. And then there was the

Tracev Emin figure. This was a puzzle. One knows that the real Ms Emin is a warm and clever artist with a sense of humour (for one of her exhibits, she embroidered the names of her past lovers into the fabric of a tent) but how could you square this with the apparition that appeared on screen? It was muttering and mumbling and giggling to itself while the others were talking, and it was clearly, how shall I put this, as pissed as a parrot. But as the discussion went on, you got the impression the whole thing had being conceived on a tidal wave of alcohol.

The "art critics" acted up for the camera in a way I found, frankly, over the top, I mean nobody talks like that, do they? "They're so of their time, they transcend their time," said Norman Rosenthal about some nictures. Scruton said petulantly that "video art doesn't

decadence, both cheeks em- Januszczak snarled, "Yeah, but a fictional panorama of Amerdoes art have to be transcendent?" in his best sixth-form manner. Richard Cork, immaculate and aloof, intoned things like, "Of course we're still learning about photography...".

But then the true, self-detonating nature of the whole piece was revealed when Tracey Emin suddenly exploded. Her plastered mutterings having been politcly ignored for some minutes, she suddenly said. "I'm going now. I've had a nice evening with my friends. I'm drunk. My Mum won't like this, but I don't give a ****." and tore the microphone off the

festoon every weekend news-I'm sure the book is a work of genius, but you can't help feeling all these early critics, queueing up importantly to declare it a masterpiece, are behaving as though they've some-

'Can we divide literature into constituent parts, and offer prizes for them? Will we get Best Indexer in a Russian History?"

front of her dress. "I don't give a toss about any of this lot, but I think he's really lovely," she velped in conclusion, pointing dramatically towards Januszczak who grinned broadly as if he'd won a prize. But sadly, it seemed Ms Emin was pointing at the cameraman behind him ...

It was brilliant television. It was, indeed, a work of art. Whatever actually won the Turner Prize, this well-sustained satire of arty self-absorption was worth £20,000 of anyone's money.

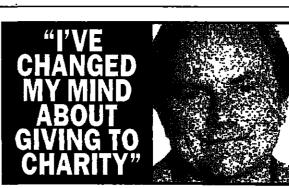
All over literary London, people are busily reading, or claiming to read, Don DeLillo's share in transcendence", and massive new novel Underworld, the odd word, a moment in

how invented Mr DeLillo and his book, and are congratulating themselves on their excellent taste in doing so. Even if you haven't read all that much: "I'm halfway through Don DeLillo's Underworld," ran one of the Books of 1997 offerings in The Observer, "and on the basis of what I've read so far, it feels safe to predict...7. (Love that word "safe"). But then, partial reviews of unfeasibly large talent is something DeLillo has come to expect from his critics at home, judging by the American notices that have greeted his 832-page doorstop: Underworld is full of sentences that capture, with the choice of

American history" said one. "He captures the drift of the end-of-century life in words, one bright shining sentence after another" said Elle. (So that's how you write prose.) Some kind of consensus seemed to be nigh, and the Voice Literary Supplement came out and said it, plain and simple: "Don DeLillo is now the best writer of sentences in America".

Now there's a critical trope worth remembering. Faced with a difficult 800-page novel, don't try to review it as a novel, but as a succession of sentences. As you might say. "Frank Sinatra sang 'Strangers in the Night'. It contained some extremely fine notes, one after the other" or "The Berlin Philharmonic performed Mahler's first symphony last night, with some shining violin bits followed by some wonderful oboe bits".

But can they be onto something? Can there be a new critical hierarchy abroad, now that the idea of "good fiction" has become divorced from the idea of "good writing"? Can we divide literature into constituent parts, and offer prizes for them, like Hollywood's technical Oscars? Will we get Best Footnote Writer in A Biography? Best Indexer in a Russian History? Best Humorous Caption Writer in a Political Memoir? Or shall we be serious about it? If I were to say that Salman Rushdie writes the best pages in the modern novel. Martin Amis writes the best paragraphs and lain Sinclair writes the best sentences ... There now. What do



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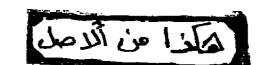
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Glyn Dearman was a child actor who managed to survive the adulation of his early professional career, became a useful actor in his late teens and twenties, and then was a highly successful and much-admired radio director at the BBC from the mid-Sixties until his early retirement in 1995.

he appeared in a number of British films, most notable among which were Tom Brown's Schooldays (1951), in which he which he was a tutting Tiny Tim to Alastair Sim's Scrooge.

In his teens he did a lot of boy hero of Children's Hour's a member of the BBC Drama Repertory Company and had qualities to bear on the main those of his many friends in speare entitled The Prince's

a regular role in Mrs Dale's body of radio drama output Diary as the Canadian cousin Carlton, employing an atrocious transatlantic accent.

After his character had been written out and the popular daily serial had both changed its nature and its name to The Dales and Jessie Matthews had taken over as Mrs Dale, he became a producer on the programme and, ultimately, its editor. It fell to his lot to "kill off" the still popular programme and he directed the final episode in 1969, giving to Mrs Dale the apt last line, "No matter what happens I will always worry about you, Jim." (The nation From a very young age knew that Mrs Dale was always worried about Jim, her doctor husband).

For the next three years he cast from Who's Who in the ran the replacement daily sermeltingly played Little Arthur, ial Waggoner's Walk, which grew and Scrooge (also 1951), in to have a larger audience than The Archers. Five years spent in running daily serials on radio is a highly pressurised job and deradio work and started in sev- mands a great deal of careful orcral series as the eponymous ganisation as well as stamina. elan, diplomacy and enthusiasm. Jennings at School. He became All these qualities Dearman had in abundance. He brought these

when he left the daily serial in 1972, and added to them a flair for publicity and a gift for

His speciality was farce and light comedy, but, apart from the Feydeaus and the Cowards, he specialised in Grand Guignol (Dracula, Svengali and Frankenstein) and was responsible for many classic serials including Robert Graves's I Claudius and Claudius the God. He encouraged and nurtured numerous original writers including Angela Carter, all of whose brilliant radio plays he directed, one of which, Company of Wolves, was subsequently made into a feature film in 1984.

Theatre rather than from Spotlight, the actors' casting handbook, but he knew that stars twinkled and had not become stars by accident, nor was be afraid to handle them. He also recognised that they added lustre to a production for the audience and attracted publicity. His propensity for starcasting never led him to forget

It was joked that Dearman

actors and to whom he owed so

He won a Premio Ondas, the Spanish comedy-drama prize, in 1979 for his production of The Revenge, written by the actor Andrew Sachs, and a Sony Best Production Award in 1985 for a dramatisation of Mervyn Peake's Gormenghast and Titus a wide social spectrum. Groan starring the musician

His 1980 production of Jeffrey Archer's first novel Not a Penny More, Not a Penny Less as a highly successful serial was acknowledged by its author as an invaluable step in helping to make his writing fortune. More recently Dearman worked with Kenneth Branagh and his Renaissance Theatre Company on radio productions of Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet and King Lear, which starred Sir John Gielgud in his 90th year.

Dearman's casting stretched into the realms of royalty when. in 1994, he persuaded Prince Charles to be directed as Prince Hal to Sir Robert Stephens's Falstaff in a commercial recording of excerpts from Shake-

the profession who were fine Choice. As ever, he got a fine performance from his actor.

A grandson of Kate ("Ma") Mevrick, the 1920s night-club hostess, three of whose six daughters married into the aristocracy. Dearman was himself married, briefly, to the granddaughter of Ramsav MacDonald, and his private life covered

But he was not as selfconfident privately as he was publicly. He suffered a number of phobias and fears and sought a constant companionship which cluded him. He too often found solace with that most seductive and deceiving of friends, alcohol, which only added to his inner suffering and eaused great concern to his many true friends. Frequently infuriated by his waste of himself, all who knew him forgave him and loved him. Greater than this was his love for others. This love fired his talent and inspired his work.

He died at his elegant small flat in Cork Street. London W1, in which street it is believed he was the last remaining private resident.



- John Tydeman Dearman as Tiny Tim in Scrooge, 1951

Photograph: Ronald Grant Archive

Robert Woof



Robert Edward Woof. mineworker and politician: born Chopwell, Co Durham 24 October 1911; married 1922 Mary Bell (died 1971; one daughter); member, Durham County Council 1947-56; MP (Labour) for Blaydon, Co Durham 1956-79; died Durham 27 November

ty in succession to Clem Attlee, was in full swing at the time. epitomised the dilemma of many impeccably working-class trade-union MPs in the mid-1950s. Their hearts were with the Left and the Bevanites; but their heads told them to take a deep breath, hold their proverbial noses, and vote for Win-Oxford, in the shape of Hugh

be that, with your views which with the Left, but we all equal- ways far-seeing, organisation. led to your being one of the 10 by understood that he had to Woof was a passionate defendways tar-seeing, organisation. ary courtesy, and I want to avoid being controversial.

Gaitskell was elected leader of Socialism" (the left-wing group the Parliamentary Labour Par- organised by Stephen Swingler and Sidney Silverman), you having obtained an absolute could on every critical vote cast majority of votes, 157 to the 70 in favour of Hugh Gaitskell of Aneurin Bevan, and the 40 and the leadership? Woof was of Herbert Morrison. The nothing if not candid. "Tam, I predicament of Robert Woof, do what Sam Watson tells me whose by-election campaign to do. I know at the end of the day which side my bread is

This was a far from dishon-

who not only, as the omnipotent (in the North-East) Secretary of the Durham Miners, but as a national figure and Chairman of chester and New College, the International Committee of the Labour Party, commanded the respect of many throughout I once had a long conversa- the country. Dennis Skinner tion with Woof about the said: "At meetings of the Min- 1947, where he spent nine years which in my part of the land, is tan-Labour Party and his attitude to ers' Group we all knew that Bob class. I asked him, how could it Woof's natural inclinations were

Robert Woof was born into

would always tell us that his great-grandfather on the distaff side - he enjoyed using unusual words; most people would have left it at "my mother's side of the family" - was a cabin boy in Nelson's victory and took a salt-cellar of Bristol cut glass from the ship, a relic that the Woof family showed to anyone ourable attitude. Sam Watson who was invited to their house.

was an extremely serious man On his 14th birthday, Woof started at Chopwell Colliery in County Durham and in 1943 became Treasurer of the National Union of Mineworkers' popular and trusted check en speech on 21 February weighman. He was elected to Durham County Council in In rising to make my maiden speech as a cog in that legendarily disined, and indeed in many

On 14 December 1955, Hugh MPs at the start of "Victory for do what Sam Watson wanted." er of what now would be termed Woof continued: an archetypal Old Labour counthe mining industry, though he cil, but which nevertheless could boast a magnificent record in

school-building and advance-

ment of primary education.

When Attlee's formidable Chief Whip William Whiteley unexpectedly died in the autumn of 1955. Woof easily beat off the challenge of the former Bevanite MP Geoffrey Bing QC, who promptly went off to Acera and became Nkrumah's virulently hated Attorney-General. And on 2 February 1956. Woof was elected with 18,791 votes over the 8,077 of the Conservative candid-"Little Moscow Branch" and a ate, J.M. Reay-Smith. His maid-

> tamount to saving "gannin" o'er me dooks". I crave the indulgence of the House to extend to me its custom-

charmingly began:

I have known an economic crisis every pay day since I was married, but my justification for intervening in this crucial debate on the economic situation is the knowledge I have acquired by reading the Second Report on the Selection Committee on Estimates, dealing with the develop-ment areas. The people of my constituency take a very keen interest in this matter as Blaydon is part of the North East development area. More roads lead to Blaydon than just " along the Scotswood Road. Many of the roads lead from mining villages where a great anxiety for the well-being and welfare of he population is being created by the inevitability of the fact that pits are owly dying a natural death.

Albeit that Woof would generally speak only when the House was empty, after a Chancellor's Budget statement, or on the day of the Queen's Speech, the influence of Woof and his Durham friends Bill Blyton. Tom Urwin, Charlie Grey and others, was not to be underestimated and was one of the im-

peratives which led the Wilson government to bring in Nicholas Kaldor's Regional Employment Premium, which was so benefi-

cial to areas such as Blaydon. Woof was the Hansard reporter's nightmare, speaking in the broadest Durham lingo. However, somehow he made his point on the coal industry, and his points were sound. The last time I heard him speak in the Commons was on 2 March 1977: "Naturally we could never conceal our deep concern on the cutting back of valuable coal production." There was muttering on the Opposition benches and Woof flashed with anger: I hope that the Right Honourable Member for Orkney and Shetland, Mr Grimond, is not laughing at that. If he is, I will tell him that on lookdards we have tried to set in this House with great respect to you. Mr Speaker, we might as well have got down on our bended knees and

what notice anyone took of our

pleas. Many times we tried to reach a common agreement and under-

I often approach other Members, both inside and outside the House, only to be told: "Sorry, Robert, old chap; you must unders of market forces." Of course, we knew what was meant by the trend of different kinds of fuel. We knew the pressures from the oil lobby and we knew what they were getting at, as to a considerable extent it was the effect that cheap oil would be ob-

Woof loved the odd Latin tag! Maybe Robert Woof is not the sort of man whom the pundits think should be elected to a modern House of Commons. I passionately and vehemently disagree. The House of Commons should reflect the mosaic of Britain and Bob Woof represented a most important element and strand in the society of the 1950s and 1960s. His talked to the cows in the field, for presence was important.

portant. - Tam Dalyell Sembarks on

minternation:

pisition trail

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Edwin Rosario

Edwin Rosario, boxer: born San Juan, Puerto Rico I5 March 1963; married (two daughters; marriage dissolved); died Toa Baja, Puerto Rico I December 1997.

Edwin Rosario, who was a world boxing champion in two achieved even more had he not spent so long struggling with in mysterious circumstances at the age of 34, came at a time suspected, but denied by his friend the WBA featherweight

his failure to master the English language spoiled attempts to turn him into an internationally marketable personality.

Early in his career he was weight divisions, might have snapped up by the New York partnership of Jim Jacobs and Bill Cayton, who mastermindhis personal demons. His death, ed Mike Tyson's rise to fame in the mid-1980s. However, it was impossible to project Rosario as when he was preparing for his fully as the Puerto Rican had next comeback fight in Miami hoped, and they parted comin January. Cocaine abuse was pany. Nevertheless, his boxing ability was never in question.

was a heavy-punching light- he was three. Edwin was eduweight who held both the World cated at a local high school, Boxing Council and the World where he met his future wife. Boxing Association titles. Only Alma. He also trained in a boxdeal with Jacobs and Cayton.

Juan in May 1983.

Rosario was born in the San

ing gym run by Manny Siacca, who taught him how to fight and eventually helped negotiate the

By then he was already a professional - he had made a winning professional début at 16, and was still only six weeks past his 20th birthday when he won the World Boxing Council lightweight title by outpointing the Mexican southpaw Jose Luis Ramirez over 12 rounds in San

In a rematch the following year Ramirez stopped him, but champion Wilfredo Vazquez. Juan suburb of Santurce, and his in 1986 he gave the extraordi-

elling 12 rounds before the given a bitterly disputed decision. Both were Puerto Rican, but Camacho had been raised in New York. In effect, Rosario claimed the decision was racially biased, an argument that was never taken seriously.

Rosario won the World Boxing Association lightweight title with a stunning secondround knockout of Livingstone Bramble in Miami in September 1986, and remained champion for 14 months until he was stopped by the legendary Mexican Julio Cesar Chavez in the 11th round of one of the best

fights of the decade. If anything, that perform- and he drifted into retirement.

At his peak "Chapo" Rosario family moved to Toa Baja when nary Hector Camacho a gru- ance enhanced his status rather than diminished it, and two self-styled "Macho Man" was years later he regained the neur in Toa Baja, but his weight WBA title by stopping Anthony "Baby Face" Jones of Detroit. By the turn of the decade, however, his life was beginning to crumble. He lost his title, moved up to light-welterweight and was briefly recognised as champion by the WBA, but by

1992 was in crisis. A younger brother, Papote, had been forced to abandon a promising professional career because of drug addiction, and rumours began to surface that Edwin had a cocaine problem. Eventually, he parted from his wife, who took their daughters to take care of my family and Ruby and Glorisabel with her. do good for others.

At one time he was said to be a cock-fighting entrepreballooned as he struggled to overcome his personal difficulties. His comeback in July 1997 was sad. Although he won two fights, and talked optimistically of another world championship, he was an elderly athlete. It could never have happened.

Poignantly, he said at his peak in 1986: "I won't be in this game for too long, and when I do get out. I want to be a positive influence with the kids in Puerto Rico. No fancy cars or flashy clothes for me, I just want



- Bob Mee Rosario warming up in Las Vegas, 1987

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

DEARMAN: Glyn John, actor and pro-ducer, at home, in Cork Street, Londucer, at home, in Cork Street, London W1. Aged 57 years. Beloved brother of Jeany and David, favourite uncle of Andrew, Chris, Stewart. Dom and Bryn. "Formate in the love of his friends" (Glyn's quore). Funeral service at St James's Church, 197 Piecedilly, W1, at 10.30am, Friday 12 December, followed by a private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to the Actors' Benevolent Fund. c/o Kenyons, 74 Rochester Row, London SW1P 13U.

Rochester Row, London SWIP 130.

STONES: Robert Charles, died peacefully at home on 28 November 1997, aged 80. Beloved husband for 56 years of Peggy and father of Alison, Rosemary and William. The funeral took place in France on 1 December 1997. Chauzanaud, Savignac-les-Eglises, F-24420.

For GAZETTE, telephone 9171-293 2011.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Birthdays

The Marchioness of Anglesey, for-mer Chairman, Broadcasting Complaints Commission, 73: Sir Stephen Barrett, former ambassador to Poland, 66: Lt-Col Sir Simon Bland, former royal equerry. 74; Mr Jeff Bridges, actor, 48; Mrs Angela Browning MP, 51; Mr Horst Buchhotz actor, 45: Miss Am Christopher, sculptor, 50; Mr Ronnie Corbert, co-median, 67; Mr Hywel Davies, for-mer jockey, 41: Admiral Sir David Dobson, former chief of staff to Com-mander Allied Naval Forces Southmander Allied Naval Forces Southern Europe, 59: Miss Deanna Durbin (Mme Charles David), former actress and singer, 76; Mr Philip Hammond MP, 42: Mr Adrian Head, circuit judge, 74; Miss Gemma Jones, actress. 55: Mrs Pamela Winifred Matthews, former Principal, Wesifield College, 83; Mr Richard Meade, three-day-eventer, 59: Mr William Menzies-Wilson, chairman, Edinburgh Tankers, 71: Miss Yvonne Menzies-Wisson, charman, gom-burgh Tankers, 71; Miss Yvonne Minton, mezzo-soprano, 59; Lord Morris of Castle Morris, former Principal, St David's University College, Lampeter, 67; Miss Pamela Stephenson, actress and comedi-ense, 47; Mr Derek Wyatt MP, 48.

Anniversaries

Births: Thomas Carlyle, writer. 1795: Samuel Butler, writer and satirist. 1835: Rainer Maria Rilke, poet. 1875: Alfred Luslie Rowse. scholar and historian, 1903. Deaths: Armand-Jean du Piessis, Cardinal and due de Richelieu, statesman, 1642; Thomas Hobbes, political

this day: Nicholas Breakspear was elected Pope Adrian IV. thus becoming the only Englishman to be pope, 1154; the Observer was first published, 1791; income tax was published. 1791; meome tax was first introduced, by William Pitt, 1798. Today is the Feast Day of St John Anno, St Bernard of Parma, St John of Damascus, St Maruthas, St Osmund and St Sola.

Lectures National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "Holbein (1): Holbein's drawings", Ipm.
Victoria and Albert Museum: Sally Dormer, "The Pastoral Message: medieval crosiers", 1.30pm.

British Museums Shelby Mamdani,
"Hearts and Souls; early Japanese
calligraphy", 1.15pm.

terprise Lecture): Martin Taylor, "The Morality of Enterprise",

Corporation of London Senhor Fernando Cardoso, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil and Senhora Cardoso, were the guests of honour at a banquet held vesterday evening by the Lord May-or of London, Mr Richard Nichols, and the Corporation of London at Guildhall, London EC2. The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester also

LAW REPORT: 4 DECEMBER 1997

No award of damages where pregnancy was wanted

pregnancy and the cost of bringing up a child would not be awarded where the pregnancy had been wanted and the child was healthy, notwithstanding that the mother would not have become pregnant had the health authority not negligently failed to alert her

Damages for the expenses of

of a serious condition which could be exacerbated by pregnancy. P v Croydon Health Authority: Court of Appeal (Lord Justice) Kennedy: Lord Justice Morntt and Lord Justice Chadwid:) 25

appeal of the Croydon Health Authority against the award of damages to the plaintiff, Mrs R, in her action for negligence. The plaintiff had applied for

a job with the health authori-

had included a chest X-ray. It was common ground that the radiologist who had considered the X-ray had been negligent in that he had failed to report the presence of a significant abnormality, which had it been reported, would have led to a diagnosis of primary pulmonary hypertension (PPH). That was an untreatable condition of the pulmonary aorta which limited life expectancy, and which was likely to be exacerbated by pregnancy, with a risk of sudden death.

Adrian Whitfield QC and Mary O'Rourke (Capsticks, London SW75) for the health authority; Robin Stew-The Court of Appeal allowed the an QC and Elizabeth Gumbel (Field Fisher Waterhouse) for the plaintiff.

Lord Justice Kennedy said that the plaintiff had become pregnant about four months after starting work for the health ty in October 1988. She had authority, After going on mabeen required to undergo a ternity leave she had become a competent radiologist: that

agnosed. A healthy girl had been delivered by caesarian section in November 1989. The plaintiff, however, had needed two cardiac catheterisations and a hysterectomy, and had been told that her life expectancy was three to 10 years. She had developed reactive depression and had retired on grounds of ill-health in May 1991. It had since become apparent that the exacerbation of PPH occasioned by the pregnancy had been temporary, and had not decreased the plaintiff's expectation of life, which was

now said to be 20 years. The judge had held that the pregnancy itself was a foreseeable consequence of the failure to diagnose PPH; that pregnancy was likely to have such devastating consequences for a woman suffering from PPH that "it should have been at the forefront of the mind of

pregnancy; and that pregnancy and its consequences were. accordingly, the kind of harm ity should have taken care to protect the plaintiff. He had therefore found that there was no difference in principle between the present case and cases of "unwanted births" arising out of a failed vasectomy or sterilisation.

The judge had concluded that the plaintiff should be awarded damages under the following heads:

a) general damages, to cover pain and suffering and all the complications of pregnancy, hospital visits for hear catheterisations, complications over and above a normal bysterectomy, and continuing reactive depression; b) loss of earnings; c) the expenses of pregnancy: and d) the past and future costs of rearing her daughter to the age of 18.

The health authority had,

medical examination, which unwell, and PPH had been di- if there had been no breach of however, correctly submitted duty the plaintiff would have on the appeal that in every case been told of the dangers of in this country in which damages had been awarded for a "wrongful birth" the child had either not been wanted at all from which the health author- or not wanted in its disabled condition. When the mother had wanted both the pregnancy and the healthy child, there was simply no loss which could give rise to a claim for damages in respect of either the normal expenses and trauma of pregnancy or the costs of bringing up the child

The award of damages should, accordingly, be restricted to general damages for pain and suffering attributable to the complications of pregnancy due to PPH; any heart catheterisation and complications of the hysterectomy which on a balance of probabilities would have been avoided by a diagnexis in December 1988; and the

whole of the reactive depression. - Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@INDEPENDENT.CO.UK FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Blair calls halt to gas-fired power stations as coal crisis mounts

The Government last night attempted to defuse the deepening crisis over the fate of the coal industry by announcing a moratorium on further approvals of gas-fired power stations. But as Chris Godsmark and Anthony Bevins report, ministers admitted the ban would do nothing to solve the looming industry shake-out when existing supply contracts with power generators expire next spring.

The unexpected change of policy was un-veiled by Tony Blair, in Prime Minister's Questions, yesterday afternoon, just before John Battle, the Energy Minister, faced MPs before the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee.

Mr Blair told the Commons that the country's energy policy was too important "to be left simply to short-term market tional Grid was concerned about the forces". But he warned that the moratorium on new gas-fired stations was "no ture. "Put very simply it's about ... whether panacea" for the mining industry's prob-

Labour MPs from mining constituencies have been perplexed by the lack of a coherent energy policy since the Government took office. They hope that the RJB Mining threat of up to 5,000 redundancies will force Ministers to grasp the need for urgency, and that yesterday's announcement was the first instalment.

Labour MPs, especially on the left of the party, were delighted, but the Tories were unimpressed. John Redwood, the Conservative spokesman, said in a later statement: "Given the imminence of pit closures and job losses, we don't want a review, we want an answer. The energy industry needs to know whether there will It needs to plan for its future investment.

and the coal industry needs to know whether it has any future at all."

Mr Battle said the Government would embark on a review of the long-term security of supply and fuel diversity in the power market and was deferring decisions on outstanding applications to build gasfired power stations until the investigation was completed. A moratorium, which the Government had previously rejected, was one of the main demands of coal producers, who claimed the dash for gas by power generators was forcing coal out of the market.

It emerged that the decision on a moratorium was taken at the highest level of government yesterday morning. A DTI submission to the committee, dated 2 December, made no mention of the move, instead stating the previous Government policy which was to consider each application on a case by case basis.

Mr Battle told a committee room packed with industry executives, union officials, and miners that he made the move after seeing press reports suggesting Naover-dependence on gas power in the fuwe can keep the lights on reliably ... that means not becoming over dependent on one fuel," said Mr Battle.

But he insisted the policy would offer no immediate help to the coal industry next April, when high price long-term contracts with generators expire. "I have never term to get through sorting those con-

The moratorium puts the future of 27 gas-fired power station applications in serious doubt. Together they total 7.8 gigawatts of new capacity, enough to displace more than 20 million tonnes of coal.

Mr Battle was forced to vigorously defend his energy policy against union criticisms that he had not done enough to help.



A rare newt, an unusual form of grass - but above all the Labour government - was yesterday blamed for the threatened closure of Whitemore Colliery in North Yorkshire. Underground workers from the pit who accompanied the official union delegations to London for yesterday's meeting of

the Commons Select Committee, felt the future of their mine was out of their hands. Conservationists had stopped development of coal reserves under the River Derwent because of the danger to flora and fauna, but the main problem was that the argued that this is a paracea in the short Government, after 18 years in Opposition and

> dies for RJB Mining, which owns most UK "Why doesn't the Government give me an Budge added. But RJB also played down pits, and the Government could not intervene in the company's private negotiations with generators.

Powergen, the second largest coal fired generator has yet to sign contracts with RJB for next year.

Richard Budge, RJB's chief executive, last night suggested a new solution to the be licenses for more gas stations, or not. the coal industry but he reiterated to MPs crisis, telling MPs the Government could that there could be no government subsi-step in to buy up surplus coal next year. disgruntled men of Whitemore, which is part of the Selby complex, attended a rally at the House of Commons (above), but later encountered a long queue for the Committee hearing and opted for the pub instead. London prices of £2-plus for a pint added little to their good humour. John Drury, a 32 year old face worker at Whitemore. detected that ministers may have just begun to listen to mineworkers. 'If the Government doesn't get up off its arse, there's little doubt our pit is

order for 20 million tonnes for the next the crisis by suggesting that it could sell

seven months in power, had shown itself incapable

of developing a balanced energy policy. The

delegate from Kellingley Colliery, Yorkshire, told the raily that he did not accept Labour MPs' arguments that it was difficult for ministers to develop a balanced energy policy. 'Are they saying that I should go back to Kellingley four weeks before Christmas and tell the men they don't have a future?

– Barrie Clement

Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

was more interested in attacking RJB. Neil Greatrex, president of the Nottinghamshire Union of Democratic Mineworkers, said he was "extremely concerned" about Mr Battle's approach.

doomed,' he said. The miners of Whitemore were

among hundreds of pitmen who came down the MI

in coaches from Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire to

lobby Parliament yesterday. Terry Allinson, NUM

Mr Greatrex claimed half the industry could shut down before Christmas, while the remaining pits would have to close after 2000 when tougher pollution targets came into force.

Outlook, page 25

Bass embarks on £2bn international acquisition trail

Bass said yesterday it had earmarked £2bn to spend on acquisitions. Andrew Yates assesses the likely targets and reflects on mounting speculation that the group is about to launch a huge disposal

Sir Ian Prosser, Bass' chairman, said yesterday: "We are looking to expand the group internationally and we will look for acquisitions ... to move along that path." He said Bass was particularly keen to expand Bass' hotel businesses in continental Europe and the Far

"We would look at group's of hotels as well as individual sites at the right price," he

Analysts believe Bass has been eyeing up European acquisitions for the last few months including the Inter-Continental chain. However, the strong recovery in the hotel market has seen the value of hotel chains rise rapidly and the group has been forced to look further afield for opportunities. One analyst said: The economic problems in the Far East has resulted in prices falling over there."

The group is understood to have ruled out a share buy back for the time being while is hunts for purchases. "We know our shareholders will be pleased if we can make a strategic acquisition," Sir lan said. Bass is continuing to look

for acquisitions in the pub business. But it ruled out ouying Merrydown, the roubled eider and alcopop naker which is currently under he bid spotlight.

Bass also unveiled plans to reate 5,000 new jobs. It is pending £680m on a huge pausion programme. £300m

has been allocated for its pub business. Its established themed pubs such as O'Neills, its Irish bar chain and All Bar One, will be rolled out rapidly. Bass will also pump money into new chains such as the upmarket brand Bar Coast and It's A Scream student pubs. It hopes to double the number of branded pubs in its estate to more that 1,000 within two years.

In addition Bass will role out its upmarket Crown Plaza hotel chain across Europe and is actively seeking new franchises for its Holiday Inn

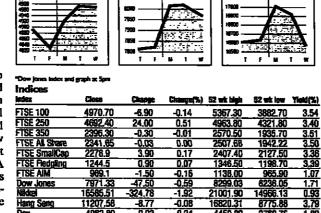
However, Bass' pre-tax profits for the year to September fell 29 per cent fall to £477m due to a £177m write down in the value of Gala, its bingo business. Industry sources believe the move is a forerunner to the sale of the business. Several venture capitalist groups are understood to be vying to buy Gala for around £250m.

The Government's decision to block the acquisition of fellow brewer Carlsberg-Tetley also cost the group £35m.

That said, underlying operating profits rose to £796m (£752m). Coral, its betting chain, had a great year. Profits more than doubled to £33m thanks to the introduction of new games such as 49s and the introduction of slot machines in bookies. Beer profits rose 7 per cent to £168m in a static market due to the strong performance of leading brands such as Carling. However, sales of Hooper's Hooch, the leading alcopop brand, fell 13 per cent as the market for the controversial alcoholic soft drinks fell off a cliff as large retailers pulled them off their shelves.

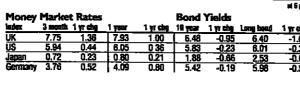
Bass has put 175 of its tenanted pubs up for sales. It indicated that further sales were likely and speculation is mounting that it could sell its entire tenanted estate.

Investment column, p24



INTEREST RATES

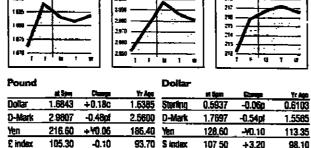




MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (și	(a) (c)	% Dige	Falls	Price (p)		3 Digg
BICC Sage Group	174.50	12.50	7.72	Great Univ Store	685.00	-30.00	-4.20
Sage Group	807 50	43.00	5.62	Hardy Oll&Gas	265.00	-10.00	-3.64
Serma Group	1407.00	70 50	5.27		465.50	-17.50	3.62
Royal and Sun	587.00	27.00	4.82	Ionica Group	107.50	-4.00	-3.50

CURRENCIES



OTHER INDICATORS

<u> </u>	Close	Chg	Yr Ago		iddes	Chq	Tr ago	دوا لصا
Brent Oil (\$)	17.86	-0.15	23.72	GDP	113.90	3.80	109.7	Jan
Gold (S)	292.05	-2.70	367 85	API.	159.50	3.7	153 81	Nav
Silver (S)	5 32	0.00	471	Base F	ales	7.25	6.00	
www.blo	om bo						2laa	6

British Midland to fly London-Manchester

British Midland, the country's second biggest

to break British

scheduled airline, is set

Airways' monopoly on

route by launching a

As Michael Harrison

second carrier also

poses a threat to

rival service next year.

reports, the arrival of a

the London-Manchester

two years at £1.25 a gigajoule. If I sell it

at a higher price they can have the mon-

He refused to speculate on possible do-

sures next year insisting that all his 17 pits

had business plans in place for the future.

"The idea that I've been sitting on a clo-

sure programme of five to eight collier-

ies couldn't be further from the truth," Mr

ey back," said Mr Budge.

Richard Branson's Virgin Trains.

Heathrow-Manchester is the biggest monopoly air route in Europe and also has some of the highest air fares per mile. announce on Monday that it will start flying the route next March in a move which is likely to bring fares down, particularly for business passengers.

Heathrow and Manchester making it the fourth-biggest domestic route after Edinburgh, Glasgow and Belfast. Midland would not comment

of daily flights in order to attract passengers from BA. Virgin Trains, which took

£500m. If a bidding war ensues

drinks giant, has already ex-

Seagram, the Canadian

it could fetch up to £700m.

ernise the route.

BA currently operates 12 services a day with fares ranging from £160 to £198. British

on its plans but it will have to launch a competitive number

over the West Coast Main

US battle for

Grand Metropolitan and Guinness are expected to surrender their Dewar's Scotch whisky and Bombay gin brands in order to get their £24bn merger past the US Federal Trade Commission

The FTC's decision is likely to fuel a bidding war for Dewar's among some of the world's biggest drinks companies. The opportunity to buy one of the best-selling whiskies in the world will generate intense interest in the industry as it is the biggest whisky brand to come on the market since Guinness made its infamous move for Distillers in 1986.

It also promises to remove the last main obstacle to the deal. The FTC could rule on the bid as early as today, although the two sides remain in discussions and a decision may not be reached until early next week.

The European Commission has already ordered Guinness and GrandMet to dispose of Dewar's in Europe, The FTC's decision means it can market the brand on a world-wide basis.

Analysts estimate that Dewar's makes an annual profit of £50m and is worth at least

be watching the development closely since London-Manchester is one of its key markets. So will Railtrack, which is investing £2.1bn to mod-

some eight million tonnes of coal to Ger-

his negotiations with generators by sitting

out for too high a price. "It wasn't a case

of brinkmanship ... but what we will not

be able to do is run the business at a loss."

not doing enough to help the industry and

Earlier unions claimed Mr Battle was

Mr Budge insisted he hadn't failed in

many and Spain next year.

Just under 1 million pas-Virgin is preparing to place sengers a year fly between a £1bn order for 55 highspeed tilting trains for the line. The trains, due to enter service in 2002, will travel at 140 mph, cutting the journey time between London and

Manchester to just two hours. British Midland now flies to 18 European and UK routes including Paris, Dublin, Glasgow and Edinburgh. Profits this year will exceed the £7.2m recorded in 1996 by a signifi-

cant margin. Aviation analysts believe

British Midland is expected to Line earlier this year, will also its long-term strategy in starting up a Manchester service is to cement further links with the German carrier Lufthansa. British Midland already operates the Heathrow-Cologne service on behalf of Lufthansa and could take over Lufthansa's four services from Manchester to Germany once it is has an established base at the airport. The four Manchester routes flown by Lufthansa are to Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Munich and

Hamburg.
The Scandinavian airline SAS, which owns 40 per cent of British Midland and is a partner of Lufthansa in the Star Alliance, also operates several services Manchester.

Dewar's looms

pressed its interest in Dewar's. It would dearly love to add a big whisky brand to its extensive spirits portfolio. Allied Domecq is also a likely bidder, not having a large exposure to the US whisky market, as are Bacardi and Pernod-Ricard. Brown Forman and American Brands could also look to add Scotch to their famous bourbons, Jack Daniel's and Jim Beam. A Guinness spokesman con-

firmed that several parties had already expressed an interest in acquiring Dewar's. Dewar's is the best-selling

whisky brand in the US with 1.5 million cases shifted annually. John Dewar started selling Dewar's more than 150 years ago. Dewar's White Label struggled during the Prohibition years in the US and became part of the Distillers group in 1925.

Bombay and Bombay Sapphire produce a profit of less than £10m a year and are unlikely to fetch more than £100m. - Andrew Yates Outlook, page 25

No one makes paper better conqueror

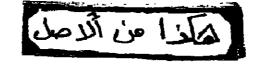
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🚄 Arjo Wiggins



New figures have boosted City hopes that the Monetary Policy Committee will not raise interest rates today. But, as Lea Paterson explains, mixed economic signals make the outcome hard to predict.

After a day and a half of deliberation, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will announce at midday today whether interest rates will rise for the sixth time since the general election. Figures out yesterday strengthen the case is still booming for services, according to a survey by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply (CIPS), but the sector is growing at its slowest rate this year.

Dharshini David, economist at HSBC Markets, said: "The figures were slightly weaker than we expected. The signs are that recent monetary policy tightening is taking the steam out of the services sector."

Markets, is among those who believe the recent interest rate hikes have done their job. He said: "The Bank should not raise rates tomorrow. In fact, in six months time we'll be asking how fast rates can come

59.1 in October to 57.5 in November. As the index is above 50, that means the sector is still booming. But the fall in the index indicates the pace of growth has

Yesterday's figures seem to contradict data released earlier this week. On Monday, it was announced that consumer credit was up by £0.9bn in October, that growth in the UK's manufacturing sector had hit a seven-month high and that, according to the Halifax, house prices grew by 0.9 per cent last month.

These mixed signals have prompted many economists to believe that the Bank should wait until the economic picture clears before moving interest rates again.

"The chances are that the MPC will hold out for a few more months," said Ms David yesterday. She added that, if the Bank were to wait until early next year, the next infor leaving rates where they are. Demand flation report, due out in February, could provide it with a justification for raising

Particularly encouraging in yesterday's CIPS survey of services was that inflation seemed to be under control. Ms David said: "The most striking news was on the inflation front, where the average prices balance of 50.0 signified no price rises for the first time since October 1996." Mr Dicks Geoffrey Dicks, economist at NatWest agreed: "The prices number was encour-

though. A buoyant input cost index - at 56.9 - suggested that skill shortages are putting upward pressure on wages.

This is not the first sign that capacity According to CIPS, the business activ- constraints in the economy could be beity index for the services sector fell from ginning to bite. On Monday, the CIPS's manufacturing survey found that delivery times, seen by many economists as an indicator of future inflation, were lengthening. "Rising pay costs will ultimately push up input prices and induce a further rise



It was not all good news yesterday. The Monetary Policy Committee, which met with its full membership for the first time yesterday: (standing, from left) Dr DeAnne Julius, Sir Alan Budd, Professor Photograph: Rui Xavier Charles Goodhart, Ian Plenderleith, Professor Willem Buiter, (seated, from left) Mervyn King, Eddie George, David Clementi

in interest rates," commented ABN Amro.

Economists believe that the competitive pressures are acting as the main constraint on prices at present. Peter Thomson, director general of CIPS, said: "Competition is becoming increasingly fierce. For the first time since November 1996 firms have been unable to raise their

prices charged, at a time when their costs continue to rise." NatWest Markets noted: "The one concern is that these competitive pressures may weaken, with firms struggling to meet the existing business

The strong pound is also helping keep

CIBC Wood Grundy noted: "The strong currency keeps any potential upwards price pressure down through smoother input prices."

According to Mr Dicks, the pound is another reason a rate rise is unlikely today. a lid on inflation by reducing the cost of He said a rate rise would push sterling

imports, according to some economists. through the DM3 barrier, a result which would be unpalatable to the MPC.

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12.19

The committee's two-day meeting, which started yesterday, will be the first full meeting of the committee. Sir Alan Budd, previously in attendance just as an adviser, is now a voting member after relinquishing his previous responsibilities at the Treasury.

Predators move to 'cherry pick' Hambros More banking complaints as

The independence of Hambros Bank was hanging in the balance last night when it admitted it had received approaches that could lead to a sale of all its banking operations.

Nigel Cope, City Correspondent, looks at the implications for the former blue-chip name now fallen on hard times.

Hambros said it had received "a number of expressions of ing division and the corporate interest" from groups interest- finance side. ed in acquiring all or part of Hambros Bank following the ap- that the discussions were not for

month to conduct a review of its Belgium's largest bank over the be delivered for shareholders from the continued ownership

Predators are circling Hambros trying to "cherry pick" the most valuable assets, which include the private bank-

of Hambros Bank."

However, Hambros stressed

pointment of Schroders last the whole group and did not in-strengthen its investment volve the estate agent Hambro performance and operations. Countrywide, Hambros Group It is also negotiating with Investments or Hambros' stake in Guinness Flight Asset Hamsale of its corporate lending busi- bro Management. But the sale ness. It said it was reviewing of all or the best parts of the these approaches and that "any banking arm would signal the offers for Hambros Bank would break-up of the group as this is nished by its involvement in Arbe judged against the value its cultural and financial heart. drew Regan's unsuccessful

gotiations with Belgium's Générale de Banque over the sale of its corporate lending business where Hambros has been struggling to compete with the larger banks. A deal is expected in the next few weeks. Générale de Banque is keen to expand in Britain where it has the bank have not developed it. around 70 staff in London. It is understood to be keen to

banking operations ahead of European Monetary Union in 1999. Hambros shares closed 1.5p lower at 265.5p valuing it at

Hambros has had a terrible year in which its name was tar-160-year old bank has been lambasted by shareholders for poor management and underperformance.

One banking analyst said: "It will not be mourned. Why should it be. It is an anachronism and the people who run They will be able to spend more time riding to bounds."

building societies convert

Bank complaints were up 10 per One of the weaknesses of the cent last year, according to the current system is in dealing Banking Ombudsman, the watchdog for the sector. Demutualisation of leading building societies, such as Halifax, was at

least partly to blame, he said. number of large building societies have become banks. So we cover an ever-increasing number of bank customers and the conversion process itself generates some one-off problems."

In its annual report, released yesterday, the watchdog also called for more harmonisation between the various common source of complaints. financial services ombudsmen.

so-called "mixed with complaints involving more than one financial services sector, such as banking and insurance. Currently, there are five The Ombudsman said: ombudsman schemes covering

> In the year to September, the Ombudsman received 8.818 written complaints, 774 higher than in the previous year. Lending, either because customers believed they had wrongly been refused loans or because facilities had been withdrawn at

short notice, remained the most

of the local stations, GWR dis-

were virtually flat, which was in

part because of a high turnover

of senior staff at the local sta-

tions. However, the group

added that the local markets

since the end of the half year.

ported a 27 per cent increase in

profits before tax to £6.1m.

The shares edged up 0.5p to

mitment to digital radio by es-

tablishing a new division to

GWR confirmed its com-

had been performing better

For the six months, GWR re-

Local advertising revenues

closed vesterday.

Australia, Germany, the UK and the US.

IMF package for South

Korea largest in history

The International Monetary Fund yesterday announced the

details of its planned \$55bn rescue package for the South Ko-

rean economy - the largest in the organisation's history. The

accord was made following 10 days of tough negotiations.

In view of the importance of [South] Korea in the world

economy. I will ask the IMF board to support this programme

to the amount of \$21bn," said Michel Camdessus of the IMF.

The IMF tranche of the rescue will be three-year standby loans

of \$21bn. The World Bank is considering a \$10bn contribu-

amounting to \$20bn are expected from Japan, France, Canada,

Accounting rules change

on and the Asian Development Bank \$4bn. Contributions

The Accounting Standards Board today brings to an end a decade-long saga with the publication of new rules on accounting for purchased goodwill and intangible assets, such as licences, franchises and brands. Financial Reporting Standard 10, which comes into effect for financial years ending after 23 December 1998, will replace SSAP22, which allows companies to choose between accounting treatments. Accountants believe it could lead to companies that are planning deals reassessing them to see if they are as likely to enhance earnings as they thought they were. Under the new rules, both acquired goodwill and intangible assets will be capitalised on the balance sheet. Outlook, page 25

ScS directors to make £15m

Three directors of ScS will share more than £15m when the Sunderland-based furniture retailer floats on the stock market next week. The chief executive, Mike Brown, together with the sales director, Neville Pappiatt, and the finance director, Irvin Bamford, will sell a 45 per cent stake in the business upon flotation but will retain the remaining 55 per cent. The shares will be priced at 105p, valuing the company at £33m. No fresh funds will be raised.

Greenwich project approved

The London Borough of Greenwich has decided to grant outline planning permission to its Greenwich Reach 2000 Limited joint venture to build a mixed development on an eight-acre site. The Greenwich Reach 2000 scheme is located on land fronting the Thames and bordered by Deptford Creck and Thames Street, close to the Cutty Sark. The project will provide some 590,000 sq ft of leisure, entertainment, retail and restaurant facilities.

Talks end at John Tams

John Tams, the household goods group, said yesterday talks which might have led to an offer being made for the company had ended. "The company is well structured after the recent rationalisation programme. Various additional initiatives and products have also been introduced and these provide us with strengths and opportunities," said Gerald Tams, com-

Rolls wins \$290m in orders

Allison Engine, the US subsidiary of Rolls-Royce, has won orders with a potential value of more than \$290m (£172m) for aero engines and industrial start systems. It said contracts signed for the purchase of 32 AE 21001-powered Lockheed Martin C-130J aircraft would be worth more than \$250m to the company. The Italian Air Force will buy 18 of the fourengined aircraft and the US Department of Detense has ordered 14 of the aircraft. It said Allison had also received an order with a potential value of \$42m from the US Navy to provide industrial start systems for DDG-51 destroyers.

Friendly society buys policies

Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society is buying the majority of household and motor policies of Landmark Insurance Company, part of American International Group. Landmark has more than 230,000 direct policies in force, accounting for annual premiums in excess of £40m.

Residents start a company to build their own pub

that - they plan to build the pub gets off the ground.

local council to build a new pub. 12 enterprising residents of the West Witney estate have here. We really need a new clubbed together to form Com- local." munity Pub. their own public quoted company.

This week they posted prospectuses to all 1,250 house- stop there. holds on the estate. They want to sell shares in the new group to raise half of the £415,000 they need to build the pub.

""

If they raise enough support they hope to borrow the rest of

COMPANY RESULTS

- (-)

Cariton(F)

bre Greup (I)

Turnover & Pre-tax &

Fancy owning your own local the money from the bank. pub? That is precisely what the Prospective buyers are being residents of Witney in Oxford- wooed with offers of cheap shire are aiming to do. Not only drinks and free meals if the pub

Mike Freer, co-founder of Fed up with waiting for the Community Pub, said yesterday: "A pub has been planned as part of the estate ever since I moved

If Community Pub is successful, the residents of West Witney estate are unlikely to

Our dream is to help people in other communities. We could organise anything from pubs to play schools," Mr

EPS

75.09m (63.93m) 12.9m (15.3m) 29.1p (33.4p) 9.5p (14.0p)

1.74b (1.67b) 326.7m(295.7m) 31.4p (28.5p) 12.4p (11.09p)

44.04m (48.76m) 1 54m (0.748m) 10.4p (5.4p) 2.3p (1.5p)

0.516m (0.175m) 1.9p(1.0p) 1#

9.0m (12.13m) 4.15m (0.170m) 4.65p(0.13p) nil

- Andrew Yates

GWR, the acquisitive

commercial radio group, is considering expanding its Classic FM brand into financial services. It also hopes to take the radio station, which made its first profit this year, around the world.

Cathy Newman reports on GWR's plans for Classic.

Ralph Bernard, GWR's chief executive, said yesterday he was looking at extending the Classic FM brand into other prod-

ucts such as financial services.

The station already has its own

"We'll look at anything that will extend the value of the brands we own," Mr Bernard said, adding that financial services was one area being looked at.

Classic FM may expand into finance

"That is one area where there's potential as more than 10 per cent of Classic's advertising revenue is from financial services."

Mr Bernard said that listeners had developed a close relationship with the classical radio station, and that related services under the Classic FM brand name would win people's

"The relationship we have with listeners is very different from other media. Radio is a friend to listeners," he said.

tried to expand into unrelated FM hit revenue growth at some areas have had their fingers burnt in the past.

Capital Radio, for example, upset the City when it acquired the My Kinda Town restaurant chain last year. Mr Bernard yesterday ruled out any involvement with the restaurant husiness.

Classic FM, which GWR bought for more than £70m last year, made an operating profit of £1.8m for the six months to the end of September.

It launched in South Africa in September and now has a 5 per cent share of the market there. Mr Bernard said he hoped to take the station to other territories soon.

However, the management focus on reorganising Classic

look at the new technology. The company is expected to put in a bid for the licence to run national digital radio services.

magazine and a joint venture classical music label. Radio groups which have Video setback knocks Carlton shares

A downturn in profits at Carlton Communications' video division and worries over the costs and uncertainties of digital television sent shares in the media group sharpiy lower yesterday. But, as Cathy Newman reports, Carlton does not share the City's scepticism and is confident it will be granted a licence for British Digital Broadcasting (BDB), its digital TV joint venture with Granada, by Christmas.

Carlton's shares shed 17.5p to close at 465.5p after its video business suffered from the strength of sterling and an absence of blockbuster titles. Operating profit in the division for the year to the end of September was 8 per cent lower at £67.7m.

However, Michael Green, chairman, said that although the performance of the video market had been disappointing, next year should pick up. "For the first two months of this year, prospects in the video

Mr Blackley said Carlton had indicated that its share of BDB's losses would amount to

£25m next vear. Despite analysts' scepticism. Carlton appeared enthusiastic about BDB, although the company admitted it had expected the licence to have been granted by now. Mr Green suggested yesterday that the European Commission, which is investigating the joint venture, would clear BDB by Christmas in time for a launch in the fourth quar-

division are looking up," he said. Neil Blackley, media analyst at Merrill Lynch, shaved his profits forecast for next year by £15m to £330m, mainly because of higher-than-expected launch costs at BDB.

ter of next year. In order to satisfy the commission, some changes are certain to be made. These

are expected to include a stipulation that Gerry Robinson, chairman of both Granada and BSkyB, cannot sit on the board of BDB. BSkyB's seven-year programme supply contract is also likely to be cut to five years, although Carlton denied such a move would entitle the satellite broadcaster to additional financial compensation. BSkyB was paid £75m after the competition authorities forced it to drop its equity stake in BDB.

Carlton confirmed it had taken a £10.4m hit from its television interests in Singapore and India. The company made a £6.4m provision after writing down its investment in Home TV, an Indian satellite channel. It also sustained a £4m charge from the closure of Channel KTV, a karaoke music television business based in Singapore.

For the year to the end of September. Carlton reported profits before tax and losses on the two overseas channels of £326.7m, 10 per cent higher than the year

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OUTLOOK ON THE FUTURE OF COAL, FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS AND THE SALE OF DEWAR'S

Truth the first casualty of Battle of the Budge

25/BUSINESS

Tony Blair could have stood up at the despatch box yesterday and laid it on the line to Richard Budge. So could his Energy Minister. John Battle, when he appeared before MPs on the Trade and Industry Select Committee. Unfortunately, without a policy on coal, much less one on energy, that was not an option available to either of them.

The Government could have summoned up all its courage, stared Old Labour in the face, and admitted that coal has no future. It could have said that the market, the mood and the times have moved fatally against coal and that no amount of subsidy, intervention or rigging of the market will save the pits.

It could have admitted that its environmental obligations take priority and that if Britain is serious about reducing greenhouse gases then coal has very little role to play in meeting our energy needs. Finally, it could have said that while 5,000 miners' jobs will probably be gone by next spring, the Government is funding an energy efficiency drive that will replace all those lost jobs and more.

Mr Budge and his unlikely new-found friends, the miners who had followed him down to Westminster from the coalfields of Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire, got none of this. Instead what Mr Blair and Mr Battle gave them was a sop in the shape of a moratorium on approving any further gas-fired power stations and a pledge that Britain's long-term energy needs are "too important to be left to short-term market

Mr Budge knows that the moratorium

is meaningless and the pledge almost certainly so much hot air. Mr Battle knows it too because he admitted as much in the Commons less than a fortnight ago. There are already enough gas-fired stations being built to replace half the output of the English coalfields. What's more, there are enough consents granted for new stations to wipe out what is left, some of them sanctioned since Labour came to power.

For all his dislike of "short-term market forces", Mr Blair shows little stomach for short-term intervention. For his part, Mr Budge's plan to build a new generation of "clean" coal fired stations looks a non-starter unless he digs deep into his own pocket. Luckily for New Labour and Mr Blair, Old Labour dislikes Mr Budge as much as anyone. Oh how much easier it is to pin the blame on the "millionaire Budge" than admit that the Government has no proper long-term energy policy.

No easy way to value goodwill

Another of those gloriously complicated Financial Reporting Standards (FRSs) was rolled out of Sir David Tweedie's accounting workshop yesterday. This is FRS number 10, and like previous models, it is mindnumbingly technical. It tells companies how to account for "goodwill and intangible assets". According to Sir David, it is one of the Accounting Standard Board's longest-running projects - "a major problem for the ASB and its predecessor, the Accounting Standards Committee".

It is not hard to see why. After all those years of work, the ASB has failed to come up with a meaningful solution to the problem of accounting for goodwill. The whole point of the ASB and its Financial Reporting Standards is to introduce transparency and comparability into company accounts after the accounting scandals of the 1980s. Unfortunately, FRS 10, while well intentioned enough, seems likely to fail almost completely in this task.

The ASB's starting point is reasonable enough. When companies acquire each other they generally do so at a value considerably in excess of the book value of the assets. The problem then arises of how to account for this excess, or "goodwill value". In most cases, the goodwill is immediately written off against reserves. This approach is open to criticism for two reasons.

First, it causes the acquirer's net worth to be depleted or even eliminated. This in turn has encouraged companies to reduce the amounts attributed to purchased goodwill by separately valuing brands and other intangible assets in the balance sheet, resulting in some bizarre distortions. For instance, Burger King is listed as an asset on the balance sheet because it was bought by Grand Metropolitan, while McDonald's, as an internally-generated asset, has no value on its balance sheet whatsoever.

The second criticism is that it allows the acquirer to overstate the rates of return achieved on the acquired assets. A new and much lower base line is established which unduly flatters subsequent performance. That's why these tech-

niques were so commonly used in the

The solution proposed by the ASB is to capitalise the goodwill as an asset on the balance sheet. Simple enough, so where's the problem? Unfortunately that's just the start. Most goodwill and intangible assets will be presumed to have a life of 20 years and will be written off over that period. But some assets will have a more limited life and will be written off over a shorter period of time. And in yet other cases a longer or indefinite life may be assigned, but only if the durability of the asset can be demonstrated. A whole separate FRS is to be produced on what criteria are to be used to determine the life of an asset.

What on earth is all this mumbo jumbe about and who is it meant to help? As the description implies, an intangible asset - such as a brand or a particularly talented employee - is, well, an intangible asset and any attempt to value it is bound to be a wholly subjective thing. It is not something that can or should be attempted in company accounts. The whole business of determining how much a company is or is not worth should be left where it belongs - with the judgement of investors.

Dewar's won't end up in Scotland

Best-selling liquor brands like Dewar's so rarely come on the market that hardly anyone can remember the last time it happened. So the sale of this top-selling scotch, which

Midshires 'offers poor deal' as customers wait for takeover

is being forced on Guinness by competition authorities in Europe and the US as the price of the company's merger with Grand Metropolitan, should be quite a spectacle. With annual profits of around £60m, analysts expect the brand to be knocked out for anything up to £700m, depending on what in the way of distilleries and bottling halls the Federal Trade Commission in the US stipulate must be attached to the sale. Dewar's is a comparatively unknown brand in the UK, but in the US it is the number one best seller.

The prospect of such a treasure coming on the market is causing some understandable excitement north of the border, where suddenly there is the possibility of creating an independent scotch whisky company of some size once more. reversing 70 years of consolidation and takeover from the Sassenach and the foreigner. Och, the thought of it.

Unfortunately, this is a dream likely to be as transitory as the Scottish mist. This is quite a bite for any venture capitalist, but on top of the £700m asking price, the purchaser would also have to demonstrate to the competition authorities funds adequate to support and develop the brand in the US and Europe. An alternative would also need to be found to the Guinness/LVMH distribution network around the world. That wouldn't be impossible but it would mean surrendering quite a bit of the brand's profit margin to someone else. All of which makes it much more likely that Dewar's will end up as a trade sale to one of the world's established drink producer/distributors. Shame.

Hostile £188m Canadian bid set to capture Watmoughs printing group

Watmoughs yesterday became the subject of a hostile bid from its Canadian rival Quebecor Printing. Although the printing group wants to retain its independence, Peter Thal Larsen says disappointed

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Outlook page 5

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shareholders are unlikely to back the company's beleaguered management.

The bid values Watmoughs at 257p a share, or £188.3m, a premium of 30.1 per cent to the closing share price the day before the bid. Watmoughs shares promptly surged to 287.5p, suggesting that investors expect turned the corner. "The action the company to squeeze a higher price out of Quebecor.

However, the bid was overshadowed by the news that Pierre Peladeau, Quebecor's chairman, 72, had suffered a heart attack late on Tuesday night. He is currently in a coma in a Montreal hospital.

Charles Cavell, president of Quebecor's international operations, suggested that the group would be willing to pay more for an agreed deal. "We are still very keen to secure the Watmoughs board's approval," he said. "My door is always open."

Agreement looked unlikely, however, after Watmoughs' board unanimously advised investors to reject the offer, suggesting that the company had

we have taken is bearing fruit," the chief executive, Patrick Walker, said. "The future of this business is best as an independent organisation."

The two parties held exploratory talks about a deal earlier this week. According to Ouebecor, they foundered over Watmoughs' price expectations, which it said were "wholly unrealistic". Watmoughs shares have fallen sharply this year after the group, which prints Hello! and The Sunday Times magazines, among others, issued two profit warnings in short succession.

Analysts said that shareholders were unlikely to back the management's bid to remain independent. "Watmoughs is rudderless, it has a very old

board, and will have to invest large amounts of capital in the next few years," said one expert. "Being left without a bidder would be a terrifying prospect for Watmoughs shareholders."

Quebecor said consolidation was necessary in the fragmented European market. The continent has 71 separate printers, while the US has just four. The market is one market. It is not a dream but a reality." Mr Cavell said. He also said that printers would have to install larger printing presses to remain competitive. But Watmoughs rejects this. It argues that for timesensitive printing projects, such as magazines, the market is not international. "Size for size's

sake is not part of our strategy,"

Mr Walker said.

by Royal Bank of Scotland, came under fire from a consumer group for offering a poor deal to its members.

The attack came as Portman Building Society announced it was lowering investment limits originally raised to combat carpetbaggers. Nic Cicutti reports.

Birmingham Midshires,

preparing for takeover

the building society

The attack on Midshires from Which?, the consumer magazine, alleges the society is keeping its members guessing on the

precise takeover date in order to hold on to them as customers. Meanwhile, they pay over the odds on their home loans and receive less interest on savings than is available from other societies.

Which? vesterday published figures showing that in the 10 months to November this year. Midshires' branch-based Quantum Instant Plus account paid just 0.9 per cent on deposits of £2,500. By contrast, the aver-

age rate paid by the five largest societies is 3.7 per cent.

However, Mike Jackson, chief executive at Birmingham Midshires, yesterday denied his society was uncompetitive: "Our Quantum Instant Plus account is one of the best of its type, especially at higher balance levels. No financial organisation can offer top rates at every tier, even the mutuals."

Mr Jackson said the takeover of his society by Royal Bank of Scotland was a "very complex

project to bring to fruition". His comments came as Portman announced it would lower

to £100 the minimum needed to open its Instant Access Account, which confers membership rights on savers. The previous limit of £1,000 was imposed earlier this year to deter carpetbaggers hoping for free shares if the society demutualised or was taken over. Meanwhile, Skipton Build-

ing Society is to present a cheque for £400,000 to the NSPCC, collected from members who have opened accounts in the past six months. The society insisted on a £25 donation to the NSPCC for each account opened, to deter speculators.

Varicose veins breakthrough for BTG

Varicose veins is an unglam-

has linked up with Dr Juan Cabrera, a Spanish surgeon who has invented a microfoam which painlessly dissolves varicose veins.

The novel foam, which contains known sclerotic agents, is injected into the veins, displacing blood and causing the blood vessels to collapse. The procedure, which has been carried out successfully by Dr

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Cabrera on nearly 1,000 men and women in Spain, can be carried out in the doctor's clinic and so is cheaner and quicker than surgery.

According to Ian Harvey, BTG's chief executive, the foam, was hailed as a breakthrough at a key phlebology (varicose veins) conference in Hawaii earlier this year and could be on the market in the UK in two years.

myriad of promising inventions unearthed by BTG. Another is an advanced system to detect narcotics and explosives in airport luggage. The technology, developed by Kings College, London, has been licensed by BTG to US group Vivid, which screens over 70 per cent of the baggage handled at UK airports.

- Sameena Ahmad

licensing intellectual property, The product is just one of a

orous and unsightly condition afflicting not just the elderly. At the moment sufferers who want to bare a leg have little choice but to opt for painful and costly surgery to remove them.

However, the technology make £15m group BTG, which reported interim results yesterday, may have found a much more pleasant treatment BTG, which specialises in hunting out and

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THE INDEPENDENT Win a Baxters experience the taste from The Highlands

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MEPC in sale talks with GE Capital

MEPC, Britain's third-largest property group, said yesterday it was talking to GE Capital about selling its Australian and US businesses.

Speaking as the company announced that pre-exceptional pre-tax profits for the year to September rose 20 per cent to £167m, James Tuckey, the group's chief executive, said that GE Capital, part of General Electric of the US, was "certainly" one of the companies MEPC was talking to in relation to the disposals, initially flagged in September.

The sale, which is likely by next spring, is expected to raise around £1bn. MEPC has said it will return at least £300m of the proceeds to shareholders and is looking to build up its property portfolio in the UK. Mr Tuckey, who has rejected merger proposals from Hammerson and Burford this year. did not rule out the possibility of a merger, but said it was not "actively considering" such a

venture. Lord Blakenham, chairman of MEPC, said that in the UK, property markets were strengthening and its portfolio, which is being focused on the UK market, was "well positioned to benefit". However Mr Tuckey said the company would have to be careful about selecting investments in Britain because "we are obviously approaching the top end of the cycle". Lord Blakenham said the

disposal of the Australian business was under way: "We have had considerable interest from a wide range of prospective buyers." He said conditions in the US and Australia were favourable for disposals with a stronger property market in the US and growing interest in the commercial property sector in Australia.

Lord Blakenham said group profits would have been £2m higher at constant exchange rates, but added: "Now that we have decided to sell the overseas businesses, steps have been initiated to limit our exposure to any further strengthening of sterling, particularly against the Australian dollar." MEPC's net asset value after

providing for future disposal costs rose 10.4 per cent to 497p. Total return on the group's property portfolio was 19 per cent with the dividend unchanged at 20p. Shares in the company closed 9p higher at 548p.

Sameena Ahmad



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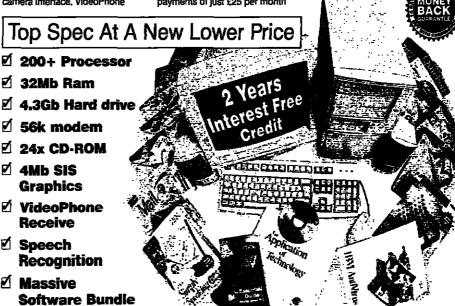
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New man at Royal & Sun gives insurance sector a fresh look

MARKET REPORT PETER THAL LARSEN

feeling pretty pleased with himself. A few days ago he was the relatively unknown chief executive of Royal & Sun Alhe's being hailed as the saviour of the British insurance in-

News of his appointment as chief executive of the composite insurer, announced af-Tuesday, pushed Royal & Sun shares up 27p to 587p yesterday - the biggest rise in the Footsie. He replaces former

The Mendelsohn effect did ment will help change in- host of unrelated businesses in doing the rounds was

tor, which it thinks looks cheap relative to competitors in the US and continental Europe. The bank reiterated its "tradliance's US operations. Now ing buy" on GRE, which put on 4p to 307p.

But the new mood failed to lift General Accident, down 24p to 1035p or Commercial Union, 3p lighter at 845p.

Trading was generally ter the market closed on quiet. After opening up 10.5 points Footsie eventually ended the day 6.9 points lighter at 4970.7.

bosses Richard Gamble and up, though, helped by de-Roger Taylor, who oversaw the mand for information techmerger but are believed to nology shares. FTSE have fallen out over strategy. International, which allocates firms into sectors, announced not end with his employer, plans on Tuesday to create a bank Goldman Sachs reckon Until now, IT firms have been Mr Mendelsohn's appoint- lumped together with a whole

Hopes that a separate sec-

tor would stimulate interest from investors boosted 1T contractors Sema and CMG. which put on 70.5p to 1,407.5p and 47.5p to 1,400p respectively. Accounting software group Sage, another likely member, gained 43p to close at 807.5p. Shares in computer chip designer Videologic continued their slide after Tues-

day's disappointing results.

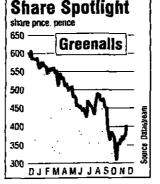
though, giving up another 7p

Second-line stocks were to finish at 44p. News of bid talks at Holliday Chemicals, up 41.5p to 236.5p, sparked a wave of speculative buying in other speciality chemicals stocks. Leading the charge were though. Analysts at merchant sub-sector for the industry. Inspec, 10.5p dearer at 229.5p. and Croda, up 16.5p to 385p.

Another familiar bid story

operator's shares gained another 18.5p to close at 406p. Just a few weeks ago they touched a five-year low of 315p. All the major pub groups, led by Whitbread. down 7p at 843p, are suggest-

ed as possible predators, but the company is not believed to be in bid talks at the moment. A statement from Hambros.



closed, that it is talking to a "number of companies" about selling all or part of the merchant bank came too late to lift its shares. They closed down 1.5p at 265.5p, having touched 276.5 earlier in the day.

A hostile bid for troubled printing group Watmoughs from Canadian rival Quebecor Printing lifted the shares 90p to 287.5p - above the 275p offer price. As recently as March, they stood at 446p. Die cast maker Morris Ashby, up 7p to 397.5p, confirmed a 400p-ashare agreed bid from venture capital-backed buyer Automotive Components Investments.

Over on AIM. Stanford Rook recovered from its alltime low of 87.5p to finish at 96p. The biotech tiddler has been out of favour since Ocshowed its treatment for

Robert V Mendelsohn must be vestors' view of the entire sec- the catch-all Support Services Greenalls. The pub and hotel five minutes before the market tuberculosis was no better than existing drugs. Results of phase two trails for a hay fever drug are expected before

> Of course, the day would not be complete without a few profit warnings. Publishing group VCI had the dubious distinction of producing the largest fall of the day. The shares plunged 77p to 115.5p after the firm warned that the early weeks of Christmas trading were below expectations, and that 1997 profits would be less than in previous years. A similar statement from shoe leather supplier Pittards booted its

Christmas.

shares down 16p to 53.5p. Great Universal Stores gave up 30p to 685p. Half-year figures from the mail order giant, due out today, are expected to be hit by the strong tober, when clinical trials pound and the weakness of the agency mail order market.

TAKING STOCK

Shares in Calluna eased in before they were suspended at 15.5p, pending "clarification of the company's financial position". The maker of miniature hard disk drives is in talks with a possible new stockbroker following the resignation of Albert E Sharp earlier this week and is work ing towards a "substantial fundraising". The shares peaked at 124.5p last year.

Wembley-based Ritz Music held at 82.5p on Ofer. The music company, which has Irish heart-throb Daniel O'Donnell under contract, has completed the acquisition of recording group Grapevine for £1.72m in cash and shares. Grapevine boasts artists such as American folk singer Joan Baez and country star Emmy Lou Harris. Ritz is also buying RPL its Irish distribution company, for a consideration

of 875,000 shares.

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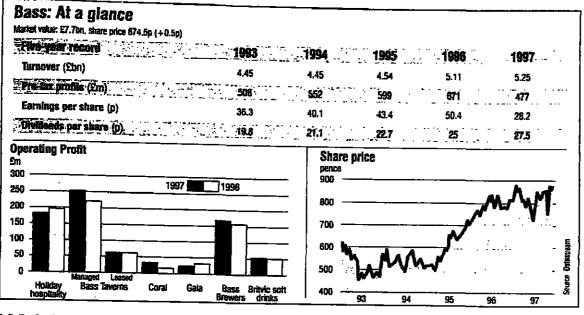
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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD



Waiting for Bass to spend its cash

What will Bass do with all its spare cash? That was the question on everybody's 12 months, then it will no doubt be called lips yesterday, overshadowing a decent set of results from the drinks giant Lack of any definite news on acquisitions or a share buy-back was met with disaprose only half a penny to 874.5p despite underlying operating profits for the year expectations at £796m (£752m).

Bass is establishing a sizeable war chest. It has already earmarked £2bn for 16 per cent. acquisitions and could swell its coffers by another £250m if, as expected, it sells Gala and withdraws from the increasingly troubled bingo industry. The final figure at its disposal could be some £3bn if it sells the Coral betting shop chain. BTG backs the having lost out in the bid battle to buy rival William Hill.

As ever, Sir Ian Prosser, Bass's chairman, was cov yesterday about just what stage any acquisition talks had BTG is a modern-day gold-digger that Europe and the Far East

for the sake of it.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Bass was also at pains to say its largest institutional shareholders were not desperate for a deal and were quite content to wait for the group to pounce. Nevertheless, if Bass doesn't come up with the goods soon, say within the next on to launch a share buy-back. Either

way, shareholders should benefit. In the meantime, Bass's Holiday Inn chain should remain a resilient perpointment in the City and the shares former, even in the face of economic woes in the Far East.

As for pubs, Bass may not be getting to September coming in slightly above the sort of returns that Scottish & Newcastle is achieving from its new investment, but it is still making more than

> Merrill Lynch forecasts current-year profits of £779m, putting the shares on a prospective PE ratio of 14. Good value. headline revenues fell in the period as

right inventions

reached. All he would say was that Bass has proved a rare find for investors. was keen to expand hotel chains in BTG, established by the Government to encourage the commercialisation of At least Bass's reluctance to chase British inventions, has been one of the the fancy price Nomura paid for UK's most spectacular privatised William Hill suggests it won't splash out MBOs. Floated at 225p in 1992, shares However, like a Hollywood film makhuge amounts of cash on a purchase just in the company soared to almost £27 before a five-for-one stock split.

of up-front investment, BTG is unlikely to break even for at least four years and Kleinwort Benson forecasts £7.5m losses in the full year. However sentiment remains on BTG's side. A long-term bet.

27/BUSINESS

Heal's suffers from listlessness

Heal's has been a dire flotation story Following its stock market listing in March at 175p, shares in this highbrow furniture retailer shot up to 212.5p within days, but have been tumbling ever since. Yesterday's 4.5p jump to 170p on good results and an upbeat current trading statement hardly compensates for 27 per cent underperformance against the market since its float

Part of the explanation is a narrow market in the stock. Another is the City's negative attitude towards smaller companies lately. But the real problem is listlessness - a lack of news rather

In the past year their value has risen

from just over 420p to hit 790p at one

stage. Not that BTG makes profits or

9,000 patented inventions. Rather than

buying the intellectual property, it

pays to help their creators establish

patents and develop their ideas to the

point of attracting licencees. For its in-

vestment, BTG earns the rights to mile-

stone payments and royalties. Though

old products faded, the group's income

from royalties grew, suggesting BTG is

backing the right inventions. Sales of

factor IX for baemophilia, for exam-

ple, are already well above expectations

US Prime Discount Fed Funds Spain 10-d Repo Sweden

350%

Japan Discount Belgium Discount Central Switzerian Discount

275% 3.30%

100% 3.73%

850% 500% 563% 500%

4.10%

could prove the big one.

lieve in BTG's potential.

pays anything more than a derisory divthan bad news. idend. Yesterday's results, which sent When Heal's floated it said it wanted the shares 12.5p higher to 665p, showed to add a fourth store to its portfolio as net revenues for the half year to Seppart of a plan to build a chain of up to tember down from £7.6m to £5.1m, 10 branches. But eight months later the £4.2m of losses and increased cash outcompany has yet to find a suitable site. flow. However for once the City is not And if it does not find one within the banking on the short term. Investors benext two months, the store will not open until after the end of 1998, breaking a BTG has the rights to more than pledge in the pre-flotation plan.

Colin Pilgrim, chief executive, and his team have been looking in Glasgow, Manchester and Dublin but have been struggling against high rentals and lack of availability. The problem is that Heal's has failed to expand into the benign, windfall-assisted retail conditions of this year, where house prices in Heal's core South-east market have soared. Stores opening next year face the possibility of higher interest rates, weaker consumer spending and a housing market whose growth is slowing. All this overshadows a strong trad-

and should boost second-half figures. Its Torotrak vehicle emission system ing performance. Pre-tax profits increased by one-third to £2.37m in the There are concerns. It is in the hands year to September. Current trading is of its licencees whose commitment to also good, with like-for-like sales ahead any product will vary. The company is by 19 per cent. On forecast full-year also in danger of losing focus given the profits of £2.8m. the shares trade on a number of ideas that come before it. forward multiple of 13. Cheaper than the average Heal's napkin ring, but just er, one blockbuster could make its for- a hold given uncertainties over the new tune. Given its high and growing level stores and housing market prospects.

Liffe Financial Futures

PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

IOHN WILLCOCK



First the good news. John Roberts, chief executive of the Post Office, has been elected president of the European Foundation for Quality Management, a prestigious forum of top Euro bosses.

Now the bad: Today's issue of Which? magazine rips into the Post Office, accusing it of "parcels left unprotected from would-be thieves, wrong advice on basic enquiries and a haphazard letter redirection service".

The voice of the Consumers' Association thunders: "The Post Office fails to get the stamp of approval from Which?"

Malcolm Coles, assistant editor of the mag. concludes: "With no close competitors, the Post Office has little incentive to change. We think the Government should introduce a regulator to set and enforce standards of advice and delivery."

Not much Quality Management there, it would seem. Let's hope for Mr Roberts' sake that not too many copies of the mag reach the Continent in time for his inauguration. On the other hand, if Which? is right about the state of the postal service, the chances of copies getting that far seem reassuringly slim.

The cold snap sweeping the country evidently caught the Houses of Parliament unawares yesterday. Somebody had forgotten to turn on the heating in the Grand Committee Room, a bit of a mausoleum at the best of times, in which the Trade & Industry Select Committee was grilling the heads of the power industry.

Despite the resulting Arctic conditions. Graham Brown of National Power, Nick Baldwin of PowerGen and Jim Whelan of Eastern Group did their best to answer the MPs' questions.

Finally Martin O'Neill, the Labour chairman of the committee, could stand it no longer, and left the room to "answer a call of nature" although some cynical journalists decided he

Industrial Metals

Precious Metals

was just going to the men's room for warmth. As Mr O'Neill passed the bench of shivering journos, one croaked: "Can't you switch the heating on, Martin?"

The chairman glanced over his shoulder at the three power chiefs and muttered: "Ask them."

Anyone misbehaving at Royal Bank of Scotland had better watch out. The bank has just appointed David Cranston, a former senior Army officer, as its head of group compliance.

This doesn't mean that Mr Cranston will be bayoneting clerks who have been helping themselves to the office paper clips. He has, after all, been head of the Personal Investment Authority's member relations department since returning to Civvy Street in April 1995.

Before that he was the Army's deputy chief executive of the multinational airmobile division and he also helped monitor the Dubrovnik ceasefire in the former Yugoslavia.

Mr Cranston says his Army background has helped in his current job because of "the management skills and my experience as a senior executive - although my time at the PIA was more compelling".

The Bank wanted someone to make the compliance department that little bit more proactive," he added. All of which should give Royal Bank employees twitchy shoulder

The Institute of Management has entered enthusiastically into the festive spirit by publishing a small collection of favourite management sayings which it promises "will enable you to bluff your way out of any tight conversational squeeze".

The book, It's a wise sage ... (that knows his onions) advises: "If at first you don't succeed, redefine success." On the subject of leadership, the collection of bons mots says: "If you are never the lead dog, the scenery never changes."

And here's one for the accountants: "Numbers are like people: torture them enough and they'll tell you anything."

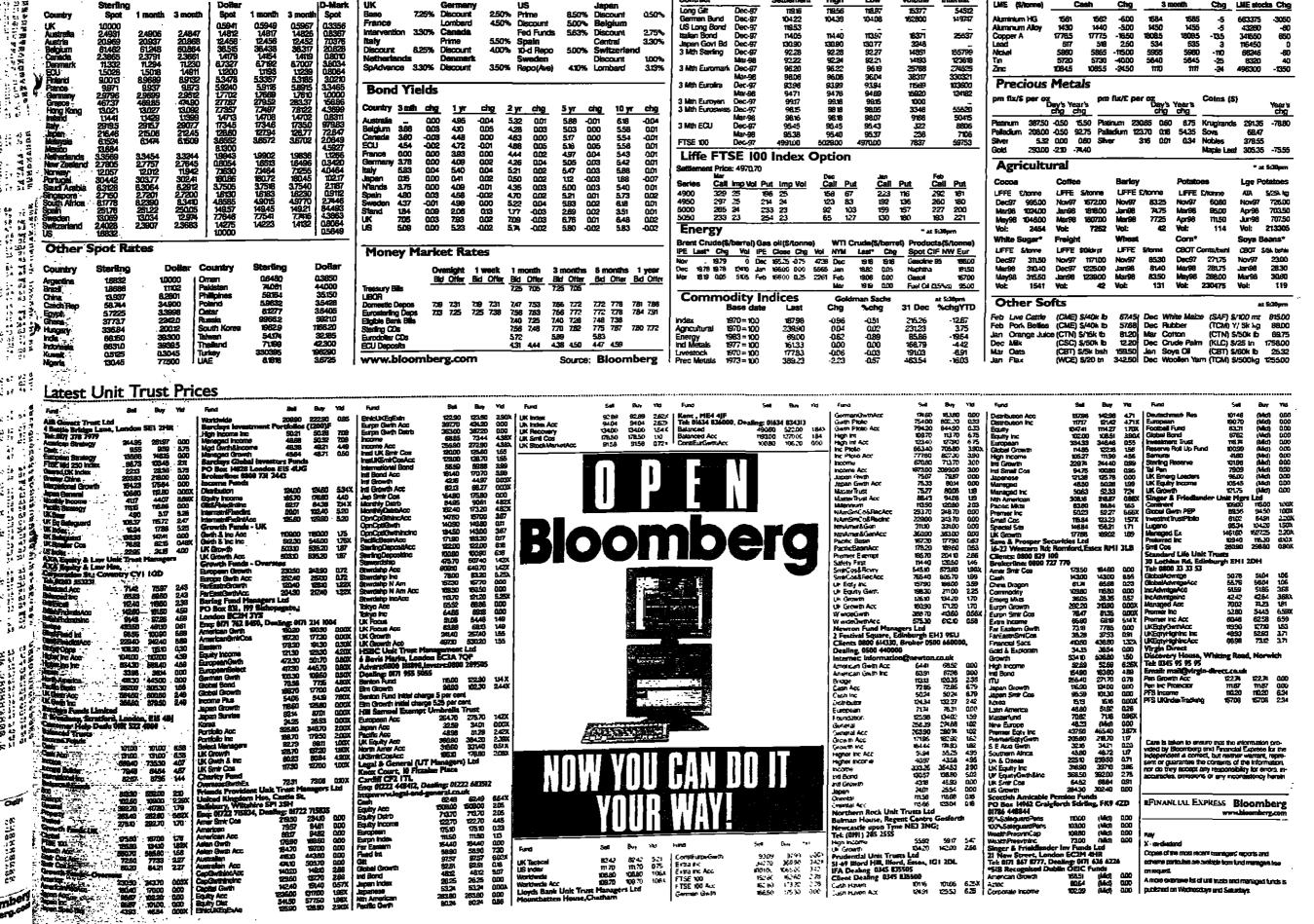
The book is available at £4,50 from Lavis

marketing. Phone 0345 023736. A colleague of mine was swapping some lighthearted badinage yesterday with Price

Waterhouse's technical partner, Ian Wright, about accounting for goodwill and intangible assets, at the end of which the former enquired: "And how do you spell your name? Like the footballer?" "Yes, like the footballer. In, fact he's my

next door neighbour," Mr Wright replied.

It transpires that Mr Wright, the bean counter, lives next to Mr Wright, the striker, arguably Arsenal's most prized intangible asset, and some post inevitably goes through the wrong letterbox. "I keep getting fan mail and stuff like that for him," said the Price Waterhouse man. "I just wish I got his cheques."



Seeds: Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Argentina, Romania,

Pot A (Africa and Concacaf): Cameroon, Jamaica, Mexico, Morocco. Nigeria, Tunisia, South Africa, United States Pot B (Europe): Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, England, Scotland, Norway, Yugoslavia. Pot C (S America and Asia): Chile, Colombia, Iran, Japan, Paraguay,

Saudi Arabia, South Korea. Brazil have been named as team A1 and France C1. The other six seeded teams will be drawn in order B1, D1, E1, F1, G1, H1. A draw

will determine which pot is drawn next. Whenever Pot A is drawn the eight teams will be placed in order A-H as they emerge. If Pot B is drawn before Pot C the first eight drawn will be placed A-H as they amerge. The remaining European team will be placed with either Argentina or Brazil (another draw). When Pot C is drawn the three South American teams will not be

drawn with the remaining South American seed (Argentina or Brazil). If Pot C is drawn before Pot B, one European team will be drawn first and placed with either Argentina or Brazil (another draw). Pot C will then be drawn, making sure the three South American teams are not drawn with the remaining South American seed (Argentina or Brazil). In this scenario the remaining eight teams in Pot B can then

be placed A-H as they emerge. Apart from the seeds, each time a team is drawn there will be a mini-draw to determine its place in the allotted group, e.g. B2, B3 or

1	Group A				
	1 Brazil	2 4			
	Wed 10 June Wed 10 June Tues 16 June Tues 16 June Tues 23 June Tues 23 June Tues 23 June	(St Denis, 4.30) (Montpellier, 8.0) (Bordeaux, 4.30) (Nantes, 8.0) (Marseilles, 8.0) (St Etienne, 8.0)	Brazil A3 A2 Brazil Brazil A2	v A2 v A4 v A4 v A3 v A4 v A3	
		2 4			
***	Thurs 11 June Thurs 11 June Wed 17 June Wed 17 June	(Bordeaux, 4.30) (Toulouse, 8.0) (St Etienne, 4.30) (Montpellier, 8.0)	B1 B3 B2	v.82 v.84 v.84 v.83	

Tues 23 June Group C		B2
1 France		,
Fri 12 June Thurs 18 June Thurs 18 June Wed 24 June Wed 24 June	(Lens, 4.30) (Marseilles, 8.0) (Toulouse, 4.30) (St Denis, 8.0) (Lyon, 3.0) (Bordeaux, 3.0)	C3

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Fri 12 June Sat 13 June Fri 19 June Fri 19 June Wed 24 June Wed 24 June	(Nantes, 1.30) (Paris, 4.30) (St Etienne, 8.0) (Lens, 8.0) (Toulouse, 8.0)	D1 D2 D1 D1 D2	V D4 V D2 V D4 V D3 V D4 V D3
<u> Стонр</u> Е	2	:	

1	3		\ 	
-	Thurs 25 June	(St Denis, 8.0) (Bordeaux, 1.30) (Marseilles, 8.0) (St Etienne, 3.0) (Paris, 3.0)	E1 E2 E1 E1 E2	V E4 V E2 V E4 V E3 V E4 V E3
-	1	2	!	refrequences, services or graphs Ar

1	2		
3	4		
Thurs 25 June	(Lyon, 8.0) (Montpellier, 8.0)	F1 F1 F2 F1 F2	v F2 v F3 v F4 v F4 v F3

3	4			
Mon 15 June Mon 15 June	(Marseilles, 1.30) (Lyon, 4.30)	G3	v. G4 v. G2	· ·
Mon 22 June Mon 22 June Fri 26 June	(Toulouse, 8.0)	G1	v.G4 v.G3 v.G4	
Fri 26 June	(Lens, 8.0)			
Group H	·	. J	119, 011921113 45 4, 1407-1407-151	-:::
1	9			

1 .		2		
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Sun 14 June Sun 14 June Sat 20 June Sun 21 June	(Toulouse, 4.30) (Lens, 8.0) (Nantes, 4.30) (Paris, 1.30)	НЗ Н2		
Fri 26 June	(Bordeaux, 3.0)		v. H4	

SECOND ROUND Saturday 27 June: Game 2 (Marseilles, 3.30) Group B winner v Group A runner-up Saturday 27 June: Game 1 (Paris, 8.0) Group A winner v Group B runner-up Sunday 28 June: Game 3 (Lens, 3.30) Group C winner v Group D runner-up Sunday 28 June: Game 4 (St Denis, 8.0) Group D winner v Group C runner-up Monday 29 June: Game 6 (Montpellier, 3.30) Group F winner v Group E runner-up Monday 29 June: Game 5 (Toulouse, 8.0) Group É winner v Group F runner-up Tuesday 30 June: Game 7 (Bordeaux, 3.30) Group G winner v Group H runner-up

QUARTER-FINALS Friday 3 July: Game B (St Denis, 3.30) Game 2 winner v Game 3 winner Friday 3 July: Game A (Nantes, 8.0) Game 1 winner v Game 4 winner Saturday 4 July: Game C (Marsellles, 3.30) Game 5 winner v Game 8 winner Saturday 4 July: Game D (Lyon, 8.0) Game 6 winner v Game 7 winner

Tuesday 30 June: Game 8 (St Etlenne, 8.0)

Group H winner v Group G runner-up

SEMI-FINALS Tuesday 7 July, Marseilles (8.0) Game A winner v Game C winner Wednesday 8 July, St Denis (8.0)

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF: Saturday 11 July, Paris (8.0)

FINAL: Sunday 12 July, St Denis (8.0) All times (which may be slightly altered to fit TV schedules) BST; local times one hour later.



Almost there: An aerial view of the Stade de France, in the Paris suburb of St Denis, which will host the World Cup final on 12 July



1 St Denis: Stade de France (capacity 80,000) 2 Paris: Parc des Princes (49.000)

3 Bordeaux: Stade Lescure (36.500)4 Lens: Stade Felix-Bollaert (41,275)

5 Lyon: Stade de Gerland

(44,000) 6 Marseilles: Stade Vélodrome (60,000) 7 Montpellier: Stade de la Mosson (35,500) 8 Nantes: Stade de la Beaujoire (38,500) 9 St Etienne: Stade Geoffroy-Guichard (36,000) 10 Toulouse: Stade

Municipal (36,500)

Form guide to the 32 competing nations

Argentina

Fifa world ranking: 19. Appearances in finals: 11 (1930 34, 1958-66, 1974-94). Best performances: Winners

As winners in two of the last five finals, Argentina can not be written off. Under Daniel Passarel-, they topped the nine-team South American group, even if defeats by Ecuador and Bolivia hardly suggest a world-beating force. Much depends on Diego Maradona's successor, Ariel Ortega, and striker Gabriel Batistuta. But quality in depth is lacking and disciplinary problems persist three sent off v Peru in June.

Austria

Fifa world ranking: 26. Appearances in finals: 6 (1934, 1954-58, 1978-82, 1990). Best performance: Third place

Qualification was a reward for patience. Herbert Prohaska failed to get Austria to USA 94 or Euro 96, but was allowed to carry on building a rugged, organised side who draw heavion players based in Italy, Spain and Germany. Werder Bremen's Andreas Herzog will be at home among the thoroughbreds in France, while old warhorse Toni Polster, of Cologne, recently overhauled Hans Kranki's record of 33 goals for his country.

Belgium

Fifa world ranking: 41. Appearances in finals: 9 (1930-38, 1954, 1970, 1982-94). Best performance: Fourth place

Although they have reached a fifth successive finals, a run to the last four as in 1986 appears beyond George Leekens' ordinary team. The excellent Luc Nīlis, of PSV Eindhoven, forms a lively attacking duo with Brazilian-born Luis Ofiveira, but with Enzo Scifo past his prime the service may be inadequate. Two three-goal thumpings by the Dutch and slender wins v Wales (2-1, 3-2) give a true picture of their potential.

Brazil

Fife world ranking: 1. Appearances in finals: 15 (1930-

1958, 1962, 1970, 1994. Mario Zagallo's squad is so strong even Juninho may miss out. Winning the Copa Ameri-ca honed their competitive edge, as well as demonstrating that Romario (back for the first time since the '94 final) could bring the best out of Ronaldo. Stop those two and there's Rivaldo, all poise and power; Deniison, the planet's most expensive player; and Roberto Carlos, who moves a ball in the air like no one since Derek Un-

Bulgaria

Fifa world ranking: 24. Appearances in finals: 6 (1962-74, 1986, 1994). Best performance: Fourth place

In Bulgaria's first five finals, they played 16 times without winning. The sequence ended with a vengeance in 1994. Yor-dan Lechkov, Emil Kostadinov and Trifon "Wolfman" Ivanov are still around, the latter as captain; and - surprise, surprise Hristo Stoichkov made peace with coach Hristo Bonev in time to clamber aboard. With a old team, lightning will struggle

Cameroon Fifa world ranking: 51.

Appearances in finals: 3 (1982

The "Indomitable Lions" are arguably Africa's weakest finalists. Roger Milla's class of '90 beat holders Argentina and came within two Lineker penalties of the semis but, judging by the re-cent 2-0 defeat to England, the current crop are unlikely to improve greatly on a poor '94. Patrick Mboma, a striker based in Japan, and Jacques Songo'o. a goalkeeper in Spain, offer the best hope of respectability.

Chile

Fifa world ranking: 17. Appearances in finals: 6 (1930, 1950, 1962-66, 1974, 1982). Best performance: Third place

Chile have not won in the finals since they were hosts in '62 and also lost all three group games in the Copa America last summer. They were, however, without the two players who could turn them into dark horses in France. Ivan Zamorano, Ronaldo's colleague in Milan, amassed 12 goals in qualifying, while Marcelo Salas hit 11 to attract interest (if not yet the £13m offer his club seek) from

Colombia

Fifa world ranking: 9. Appearances in finals: 3 (1962, Best performance: Second round 1990.

Tipped by Pele to win USA 94, their mediocre performance was followed by the murder of own-goal scorer Andres Esco-bar. His old colleagues soldier on - Carlos Valderrama, who now has more than 100 caps, Freddy Rincon and Tino Asprilla but a trouble-free tournament looks Colombia's best hope. Dedicating a goal to two

alled drug barons, as Anthony De Avila did after beating

Ecuador, did not bode well.

Croatia

Fifa world ranking: 21. First appearance in finals.

Croatia's war-torn history means national pride is a motivating factor. They made the quarter-finals of Euro 96 before losing to eventual winners Germany now, having beaten Ukraine in a play-off, they can grace the global stage. Miroslav Blazevic relies chiefly on exiles, and in Alen Boksic and Davor Suker he has forwards who make them a good bet to emulate the surprise impact of Sweden and Bulgaria in the US.

Denmark

Fifa world ranking: 8. Appearances in finals: 1 (1986). Best performance: Second

If not as good as the "Danish Dynamite" side who peaked too soon in Mexico, or the Euro 92 gatecrashers, Bo Johansson's squad should still be a credit to nation of five million people and three full-time clubs. Peter Schmeichel and Brian Laudrup give them presence at both ends, Marc Rieper and Morten Wieghorst the solidity in between. The once-magical Michael Laudrup may also have a few tricks left up his sleeve.

England

Fifa world ranking: 6. Appearances in finals: 9 (1950-70. 1982-90). Best performance: Winners

Glenn Hoddle says England are feared and, for once, there is no reason to dismiss a national coach's optimism as wishful thinking. Much may depend on Alan Shearer's fitness, but if there is strength in depth it is among the strikers and emu-lating the semi-final place of Italy 1990 is attainable. The squad is young, which in a 32-nation finals could be vital.

France

Fifa world ranking: 7. Appearances in finals: 9 (1930-38, 1954-58, 1966, 1978-86). 1958, 1986.

When they last hosted a major tournament in '84 they took the European title. Aimé Jacquet's grafters have prompted damning comparisons_with the panache of Platini, Tigana and Giresse - echoes of England in the build-up to 1966 and all that. Like Alf Ramsey, Jacquet has a strong defence and in Zinedine Zidane a playmaker with more than a frisson of flair. Now he needs to find his Geoff

Germany

Fifa world ranking: 2. Appearances in finals: 14 (1934-38 as Germany; 1954-90 as West Germany; 1994 as Germany). Best performance: Winners 1954, 1974, 1990.

Despite being unbeaten in 18, the European champions drove Berti Vogts to distraction in qualifying. Northern Ireland drew in Nuremberg and Albania gave Ukraine a glimpse of France by leading and twice levelling before Oliver Bierhoff's last-gasp winner. Jürgen Klinsmann is among five survivors from Italia '90, and after the American aberration the onus is on the old guard to restore Germany's standino.

Iran

Fifa world ranking: 50. Appearances in finals: 1 (1978). Best performance: First round. Enjoyed initial success in the Asian section with the long ball to Ali Daei, but Saturday's draw in Melbourne was their sixth consecutive qualifier without a win. They now have a Brazilian coach, Valdier Vierra, and Bundesliga players in Karim Bagheri and Khodadad Azizi Mark Bosnich admitted they were Australia's hardest opponents. Scotland, wounded by the 1-1 draw in '78, would certainly not underrate them.

Italy

Fifa world ranking: 10. Appearances in finals: 13 (1934-54, 1962-94). Best performance: Winners 1934, 1938, 1982,

The crisis that consumed Italy after England drew in Rome has been only partly assuaged by play-off success. The Azzumi play-off success. The Azzumi stand condemned for tactical ineptitude: Cesare Maldini for failing to settle on a striking duo, it all sounds similar to four years ago, but Italy went on to take Brazil all the way to penalties in LA. Two goals conceded in 10 unbeaten qualifiers suggests that they could yet come good again. Jamaica

Fifa world ranking: 39 First appearance in finals.

"The Reggae Boyz" have a sam-ba feel: a Brazīlian coach (Rene Simoes), gold and green strip, slow build-up followed by explosive bursts, and exuberant fans. They have also exploited English immigration well, recruiting Deon Burton, Robbie Earle and more. Marley's "One Love" is their anthem - they so often win by that score - and any snow-free country that enters bobsleigh in the Olympics is not to be sniffed at.

lapan

Fifa world ranking: 18 First appearance in finals.

The joint hosts of 2002 scraped into their first finals with a goal in the last minute of extra time against Iran last month. They have two better than average forwards in former Serie A player Kazu Miura and Brazilian Wagner Lopes but little else other than enthusiasm. The big countries will we come them into their groups as qualification fodder. Their destiny is to be overrun.

Mexico

Fifa world ranking: 11. Appearances in finals: 10 (1930, 1950-70, 1978, 1986, 1994). Best performance: Quarter-finals

The power in the Concacaf pool - this is their 11th finals after losing one qualifying game in 16 -they usually get swallowed by the bigger fish. Quarter-finalists only when they have hosted the tournament their cause was not helped when they sacked their coach last week. Manuel La-puente will guide "El Tricolor" in France, probably straight on to the plane home after the qualification phase. Much will depend on playmaker Alberto Garcia Aspe.

Morocco Fifa world ranking: 16.

Appearances in finals: 2 (1970) Best performance: Second round 1986.

The self-styled Atlas Lions are in their fourth World Cup proper and in coach Henri Michel they have someone who has guided a team, France, to the semi-finals in 1986. They have drawn with Croatia, beaten Nigeria and lost narrowty to Brazil in recent matches - and the Moroccans are just the sort of underrated team who inflict surprises en route to mer-

Netherlands Fifa world ranking: 12

Appearances in finals: 6 (1934-38, 1974-78, 1990-94) Best performance: Runners-up

They fight like alley cats, and that is just among themselves. If you want to find the least harmonious ther than the Dutch, but if they do concentrate on the opposition they could surpass the 70s sides of glorious memory and win their first World Cup. Bergkamp, Kluiv-ert, Davids, Overmars: only Brazil and Nigeria will be better blessed by natural ability.

Nigeria Fifa world ranking: 71, Appearances in finals: 1 (1994).

Best performance: Second round 1994. The Super Eagles were brought to earth in USA 94 by Italy in the second round, although they were leading with two minutes to go. The Olympic champions, they dominated a qualifying group

dominated a qualifying group

that also included Kenya and Guinea and look the best of the African qualifiers. Talented but de-fensively naïve, Terry Venables' possible appointment as coach makes them even more intriguing.

Norway Fifa world ranking: 14. Appearances in finals: 2 (1938,

Best performance: Second Leonhardsen, Solskiaer, Ostenstad... so many Norwegians play in the Premiership their team will be more familiar to English eyes than Scotland. Fast and hardtackling, they romped through their qualifying group (21 goals for 2 against) and are just the sort of underdogs no team will want to meet. If they can marry guile

to strength, the quarter-finals are viable at least.

Paraguay Fifa world ranking: 30.

1950. 1958. 1986). Best performance: Second

Paraguay were the surprise package of South American qualify-ing coming second behind Argentina with nine wins from 16 matches. Defensively minded, they strike on the counter, which may not be compulsive viewing. but they do have a goalkeeper, Jose Luis Chilavert, who goes forward even more than Schmeichel and scores goals at set-pieces. Difficult to beat, they could reach the second round but should

Romania

Fifa world ranking: 5. Appearances in finals: 6 (1930-38, 1970, 1990-941. Best performance: Quarter-finals

English astonishment at Romania's seeding overlooks appearances at the last three finals, including a quarter-final place last time. They comfortably shook off the Republic of Ireland in qualifying nine wins, one draw – and in Gheorghe Hagi and Marius La-catus they have world-class players on the biggest stage for the last time. Skill they will have in drag them down

Saudi Arabia Fifa world ranking: 34. Appearances in finals: 1 (1994),

Best performance: Second round 1994. Surprised Belgium last time and are capable of upsetting others in France, although an avalanche of goals is unlikely. Coached by the German, Otto Pfister, they scored just eight times in in eight second-round qualification

matches although, like Japan, they got to the finals ahead of Iran, Unlikely to do much other than the

Unikely to do much other than un-spectacularly make up the num-Scotland

Fifa world ranking: 36. Appearances in finals: 7 (1954-58, 1974-90).

Best performance: First round. Consistency and clean sheets are not normally the Scots' strongest suits. Craig Brown has changed all that. His next trick must be to go beyond the group stage and lose the hated gallant failures" tag. Fine goalkeeping, mean defence and Gary McAllister's guile will help, along with meticulous planning and squad spirit. Scoring is the snag, making Kevin Gallacher's fitness and form unexpectedly

South Africa Fifa world ranking: 35.

First appearance in finals. No African team is complete without a nickname and theirs is Bafana, Bafana (Boys, Boys) This is their first finals and their winning of the African Nations Cup last year underlines their po tential, as did their performance against England at Old Trafforc Mark Fish and Eric Tinkler are in the Premiership but you fear for a team whose principal striker i Phil Masinga, who hardly set the

world alight at Leeds. **South Korea** Fifa world ranking: 31 Appearances in finals: 4 (195-1986-94).

Best performance: First rounk South Korea's record is lamer table - no wins in 11 matches but their qualification record i enough to make England enviou: as they have reached four cor secutive finals. A win over Norwa and a draw with Yugoslavia th year suggests they are nobody mugs and at USA 94 they dre with Soain and Bolivia before los ing 3-2 to the Germans. Even so

Spain

Fita world ranking: 3. Appearances in finals: 9 (193 1950, 1962-66, 1978-94). Best performance: Fourth plac

first-round failure beckons agair

The ultimate underachievers of the World Cup, Spain have ha. more than their fair share of ta ent but they have to go back t 1950 for their best performanc in the finals, fourth. Even Alfre do Di Stefano could not coa anything better out of them, s it is unlikely that Real Madrid Raul González will be able to d better. Great clubs, shame abox

Tunisia

Fifa world ranking: 23. Appearances in finals: 1 (1978) Best performance: First round It will be 20 years since Tunisi last graced the finals, and whe they flopped as hosts of th African Nations' Cup in 1994 looked like another 20 year would pass before they got ther again. Coach Henri Kaspercza easily out of a group that incluc ed Egypt, Namibia and Georg Weah's Liberia.

United States Fita world ranking: 29. Appearances in finals: 5 (1930) Best performance: Semi-final 1930.

Limited but with an endless ca pacity for work, they could be Leicester City of the finals - and who are the Coca-Cola Cul holders? This will be their thin consecutive World Cup and their must be better for their 1994 extended parience, when they beat Colornia and missed out on the second round only on goal difference. Hard to beat but, like tours years ago, goals will be hard to come by

Yugoslavia Fifa world ranking: 22 Appearances in finals: 8 (1930) 1950-62, 1974, 1982, 1990). Best performance: Semi-finals

Now if only they could call upon their former players from Croat-ia... maybe not. A developing team who appear to be getting better, they slaughtered Hungary 12-1 on aggregate in the play-off games and, like Norway, will be appear the lower rank will be among the lower rank teams no one will want in their group. Milan's Dejan Savicevic is the focal point but a supporting cast of Vladimr Jugovic and Pedrag Mijatovic give them other op-tions.

BY GUY HODGSON AND PHIL SHAW

It is possible to forget that England's overall World Cup record is nothing much to shout about

Television newscasters on Tuesday night paid bleak attention to the announcement from Marseilles that England were not among the eight seeded nations for tonight's draw for the 1998 World Cup finals,

"A blow to England's hopes" was one way, the most popular, of looking at it, doubtless bringing up, typically in the minds of many patriots, the notion that bias is another of the difficulties Glenn Hoddle and his men will have to overcome in

France next summer. To suggest a snub was arrant nonsense. England were qualify for the finals in the United States four years ago left them without enough points in a complicated ratings procedure.

Bias? Think back to 1966 when England, much to the disgust of their most powerful rivals, were permitted the extraordinary advantage of attempting to win the World Cup without leaving Wemb-

When the draw for that tournament was made at a hotel in west London I fell into conversation with officials from Brazil and West Germany, who were convinced that it had been set up in England's favour. They muttered darkly about the influence of Sir Stanley Rous who was then president of Fifa. the sport's world goveming body.

In the case of Argentina, who had their captain, Antonio Rattin, sent off in an infamous quarter-final against England, this developed into formances in the finals and paranoia. "It is impossible for pretty obvious limitations inus to win the World Cup because Rous has set the ref- ment. erces against us," a member of their delegation grum- is possible to forget that Eng-

Many Germans still share the view that Geoff Hurst's to shout about, Including second goal against them in their one victory they have final should not only have stood. "It was impossi- semi-finals. Germany by ble for anyone to tell and in comparison have appeared in a match of that importance six of 15 finals. we should have been given the benefit of the doubt." West Germany's coach, Helmut Schön, said. Another remark passed waspishly at the time was that the Soviet linesman Tofik Bakhramov had Stalingrad in mind when signalling the legitimacy of

Hurst's effort. There is a lot more to World Cups than meets the former Tottenham player. eve. Shortly before Brazil were drawn in the same group as England for the 1970 finals in Mexico their coach, João Saldanha, soon to be suc- dently about England's ceeded by Mario Zagallo. launched a propaganda as- belief that some of his lesssault on European football. er-known players will startle "From the violent tackling I the opposition. saw there recently it will be a

Sir Alf Ramsey was furious. "This man is simply preparing the way for Brazil." he said. "It is a blatant attempt to influence the match officials in Brazil's favour.



KEN JONES

The narrow victory that enabled Brazil to top Engiand's group opened up the possibility that they would meet again in the final. It not seeded because failure to made them nervous. "Our players will be remembering that we only just defeated England in Rio last year," Saldanha said, "they can be very superstitious. In a World Cup it is necessary to think not only about the next match but what it could lead to."

satisfaction of most people.

Something for bettors to bear in mind is that 67 years of World Cup competition has produced only six champions: Brazil (4), Germany (3), Italy (3). Argentina (2), Uruguay and England (1). Another is that Brazil are the only South American team to have won the World Cup

ing their team's potential, Scottish supporters are always likely to descend into a twilight of reason, but past perdicate further disappoint-

If completely out of character, Ramsey's bold assertion that England would win the 1966 World Cup after being grouped with France, Mexico and Uruguay was based on the advantage of familiar territory and the outstanding players available

appears to be taking a simipectation. This week he has chances, making much of the

very difficult tournament for wrong in this, but closer to the the referees," Saldanha said. time he might well sense the need for discretion. He's right about one thing though. the World Cup, you'd better believe that you can beat the best teams out there.

Pitman stable has a soft spot for Princeful

The weekend's cards at Chepstow and Sandown will provide hard evidence for the New Year's big steeplechase prizes.

But a handicap hurdle will be Saturday's big betting race as punters try to defray Christmas expenses. Chris Corrigan reports.

Jenny Pitman is hoping for further rain to improve the prospects of Princeful in Sat-

urday's William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown. Richard Dunwoody is standing by to ride the six-year-old, who appears handily weighted in the £50,000

home gallops yesterday and firmed a definite runner. But David Stait. Mrs Pitman's asworking towards running him at on Saturday - the softer it is the better for us."

odds from 12-1 to 10-1 yester- with good patches. day, getting into line with most

2.20 in Truth (nb)

3.20 Dublin Treasure

2.50 Zaralaska

GOING: Hurdle course - Soft; Chase course - Good (Good to Firm patches).

Right-hand, undutating course.

Racecourse is 2 miles south-east of city off A8, Leicester raiway station (London, St Pancras - Sneffeld line) over 2 miles away ADMISSION: Culo £13; Tattersalls £9 (OAPs CS). CAR PARK: Free parking available. Profit car park £22 (car plus four occupants).

LEADING TRAINERS (5-YEAR RECORD): D Nicholson £2 witners from 47 runners £25.5%, M Pipe £-62 (GAPs). N Twiston-Davise 8-31 (£25%). N Henderson 7-23 (GARs).

LEADING (10*CKCFS*). A Meaving 44.67 (2094). M & Brownedd 9-46 (1895). W Miles (1895).

LEADING JOCKEYS: A Maguire 14-67 (209%), M A Fitzgerald 9-46 (188%), W Marston 9-63 (14.3%), A P McCoy 8-41 (185%).

12.50 BEGINNERS JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) \$\text{CLASS}\$ (CLASS

1 VENT D'AOUT (15) (Eile Racing Cub) M Pipe 11 0 AP McC.
6 DIE FLEDERMANS (15) (LoV) Vester) Mes H Kinght 10 12 April 6
6 DIE FLEDERMANS (15) (LoV) Vester) Mes H Kinght 10 12 April 6
6 DIE FLEDERMANS (15) (LoV) Vester) Mes H Kinght 10 12 April 6
6 DIE FLEDERMANS (15) (LoV) Vester) Mes H Kinght 10 12 April 7
6 FOREICH RULE (23) (Ars Sussen McCarthy) Juritaris 10 12 DI Kassangh (6
6 N THE GENES (Flot) (The Mirror Punters Cub) I Williams 10 12 Di Kassangh (7
6 N THE GENES (Flot) (The Mirror Punters Cub) I Williams 10 12 Di Kassangh (7
7
8 WEST AND SEE (42) (Ed Westman (Haufage & Storage) Lich) T Well 10 12 Cassy Lyon
10 WESLEYS LOV (12) (Sham Milliams) D burchel 10 12 Di Discribs
10 WESLEYS LOV (12) (Sham Milliams) D burchel 10 12 Discribs
11 MILISTANG SCALLY (7) (F A Discribs on J Medice 10 7 The Company of the Cub (Flot) J Teaches (15) Mis N Macandey 10 7 S Wynn
11 Milliams (15) J Teaches (15) Mis N Macandey 10 7 S Wynn
12 Medicard -

- 13 declared -BETTING: 4-5 Vent d'Acut, 6-1 Jazz Track, 8-1 Foreign Role, Warrlin, 10-1 Don't Fool Me, 14-1 in The Genes, 16-1 Die Fledermaus, West And See, Mustang Sculy, 25-1 others

FORM GUIDE

Beaten a neck in a claimer on her final start in France, VENT D'AOUT could not have been much more impressive first time over hurdles, trotting up at Hereford with Die Fledermaus a remote sixth. The obvious choice to make a race of it is Don't Fool Me, who befied his 66-1 starting price with a respectable fourth behind fisal Estate at Ascot, a race contening several winners and in which Westey's Lad finished 10th. Far less experienced than most Juvenile hurdlers (he ran just twice on the Flat at two), Don't Fool Me could improve and he is in a much wealer contest. There's a novice hurdle to be won with Warrilin, nunner-up to Count Tony at Ayr, but he was a maken on the Flat, rated interior to Jazzz Track, who best Mary Reveley's successful juvenile hurdler, Sad Mad Bad, when winning a staying handicap at Catterio in October for Peter Chapple-Hyem. A 28000gns buy, he could be a decent recruit to hurdling himself but, with Tony McCoy on Vert D'AOUT. Jazz Track looks the Pipe second string.

1.20 JOHN O'GAUNT MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS F) £3,500 added

2m 7f 110yds Penalty Value £2,928

were still offering 11-1.

Saturday's race is over two miles and half a furlong. At the start of this season Pitman said she believed Princeful's best di-Princeful had a spin on the tance was likely to be two and half miles. "But he has the will do a sharper piece of work class to hold his own at two this morning before being con-miles," Stait insisted yesterday. The bay was a 10-length

second, on unsuitable fast gosistant, said last night: "We are ing, to the brilliant Shadow Leader in the Supreme Novices' Sandown. The ground is the key Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival last March. Last night, the Sandown hurdles track going The Tote cut Princeful's was described as good to soft,

Princeful made his season-

of their competitors. Ladbrokes all debut two weeks ago at Ascot where he finished a length and a runner-up to Ela Agapi

> The two are due to renew rivalry on Saturday but the Ascot

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Dublin Treasure (Leicester 3.20) **NB: Scotby** (Windsor 1.30)

race was run at a farcical early pace, and Princeful stumbled and lost momentum on a roadcrossing before the home should certainly gain revenge on

Martin Pipe's Doctoor, who day's race is now unlikely to be in the line up after finishing second at odds of 4-9 in a fourhorse event at Fontwell

McCoy dismounted, he rewith a pair of blinkers." Nick Henderson, who trains

the current favourite, said: "Stormy Fairweather runs in the William Hill race on Saturday, but my other entry, Barna Boy was scoped this straight. The Pitman horse morning and I think he'll wait until Cheltenham on Saturday week."

Coral yesterday reported had been a fancied for Satur- each-way support for the 33-1 shot Celibate in Saturday's Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown and cut the odds to 25-1.

Paul Nicholls has confirmed that See More Business will take After Doctoor's jockey, Tony on the 1996 Grand National winner Rough Quest in the marked: "He'd be much better Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow

on Saturday. WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE: Latest betting (Tote); 11-2 Stormylar-weather, 7-1 Grimes , 8-1 Potter's Gale. 9-1 Alabang, 10-1 Chai-Yo & Princeful, 12-1 Caritto Brigante, Doctoor, Ela Agapi Mou & Potentata, 14-1 Kerawi, 16-1 others. TINGLE CREEK CHASE: Latest odds 1 INGLE CHEEK CHASE: class class (Coral): 7-4 Klaron Davis, 100-30 Viking Flagship, 7-2 Multigan, 9-2 Or Royal, 6-1 Ask Tom, 20-1 Arctic Krisman, 25-1 Cel-bate, 53-1 Indian Jookey, 66-1 Oh So Risky.

LEICESTER

12.50 Vent D'Aout

1.20 Jobsagoodun 1.50 Kreef

● FAVOURITES: 79 wins from 239 races (33.1%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Edward Seymour (200).

Fifa's responsibility is to produce a balanced tournament and an authentic champion. Generally, as history shows, this works out to the

(Sweden 1958) in Europe.

When it comes to assess-

With long practice it also land's overall record in the World Cup is nothing much

Hoddle, like Ramsey a lar risk with the burden of exbeen heard speaking confi-

There is not a great deal To have a chance of winning

The Sporting like

18	25/41 - CHURCHTONIN CHANCE (263) (D) (Paul B Jordan) C Pephan 7 ft 1 Nr L Jellord P/434 - PO CAP EEL (242) Alas T R Kneey 7 ft R Kneey 7 ft 1 Alas R Burton (7)				
_	Local medianti mandi man	,			
16	4520-2 WINNOW (19) (Erigina Recing) Mass H Kinght 7 11 1	,			
	— 18 declared —				
BETTRIC: 4-1 Winner, 11-2 Oliver's Secret, 13-2 Bank Avenue, 8-1 Cose Funk, Johnspoodun, Man					
of The Motoh Accountages Lady Churchisma Chance, 10-1 others					

Winnow would not have been expected to make a race of it with The Tossach over hurdes, so her 10-length second at Hurtingdon was not a bad first run for Hennetta Kriight and the chesing experience sire gained while with Andy Turnell is a plus in this company. She is nothing out of the ordinary, however, and it might pay to look elsewhere. Seven of the 10 winners that Nick Henderson has had so far this season have come in the past couple of weeks, several going in first time, so JOBSAGOODUN might be the answer, sithough he was disappointing in staying hurdies after finishing tour thin of 16 behind Yahmi at Newbury on his first run last season. Hardy Weather has shown good form in the past but whether he can still produce it is another matter. It is only a week since he made misteless and was pulled up in the Taumton race won by Jeffertes. Others representing by statiles include Cose Pusit, coming back from a lay-off and untried at the trip, Men Of The Match, who fell at the first on his chesing debut, and Others's Sacret, on the floor in the weak Kowcester chase won by Snow Board in October. In the circumstances, it would not be a surprise if Orphan Spe made his presence felt. Third in a point-to-point and fourth of 20 in a NH Flat race at Limerick, he is not without ability. Up for Reasone is a former hunter-chases who will have benefited from his run behind Eassanhally in a novices' handicap at Merket Reaen but The Crooked Oak is from a yard going through a quiet spell. ted to make a race of it with The To ow would not have been exp

1 50 BARKBY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G)

	1.50	£2,500 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £2,108
	03m/	NOMADIC FIRE (533) (D) (G Wilshire) Mrs N Macauley 7 12 0
	00040/	VASILEY (624) (C) (D) (R N Former) S Gollings 9 ti 13R Johnson B
i	1P853-	WHISTLING BUCK (290) (D) (B J Lewellyn) B Llewellyn 9 11 11 Miles E J Jones (7)
	550-29	EVEZIO RUFO (7) (T Clarke) N Littmoden 5 ti 8
i	F2563-	TWICE THE GROOM (367) (Miss Louise Davis) L.V Davis 7 11 7
ı		EDWARD SEYMOUR (USA) (14) (CD) (BP) (W Janks) W Janks 10 11 5 T Janks B
,		KREEF (605) (H.J. S. Racing) R. Curlis 5 11 4
ŀ	5/3P-B	RICH TYCOON (17) (P M Fich) P Rich 6 11 2
ı	333343	ESKBNO KISS (27) (D) (Mrs Sue Adems) J Mackle 4 11 1 E Hosband (3)
Û		VISCOURIT TULLY (5) (C.F.C. Jackson) C. Jackson 12 10 9
ı		SER PAGEANT (14) (D) (Nes Mary Bridgwater) K Bridgwater 6 10 5 R Massey (3) B
Q		PARISLAN (20) (Miss J C Blackwell) J Bermeti 12 10 1
ŝ	P328-R	LOFTY DEED (USA) (180) (C) (Mrs C Hicks) Mrs C Hicks 7 10 0
H	/30000	COOCIBE (21) (S M McCausland) R Baker 6 10 0
ó	23P-54	KHAZAFI (USA) (15) (Mise M T Orson) R Brotherton 9 10 0S Curren
		COLUMN MUTOR CONTINUES MORE AND ALL MAN DEPARTMENT TO MAKE A COLUMN MENTAL AND MENTAL AN

Affairm weight 10st True hardicap weight Coochie & Nazari Sar 13th, South West Express Set 10th. BETTING: 11-2 Evezio Ratio, 13-2 Edward Seymour, 6-1 South West Express, 10-1 Vasilier, Whisiling Buck, Rich Tycoen, Enkiden Kiss, Viscount Tully, Sir Peguant, Partnan, Khezari, 12-1 others FORM GUIDE

With five of the top seven lacking recent action, EDWARD SEYMOUR'S fitness should count for something and, although he was besten a long way by Fronter Flight at Warwick, a fortnight ago, he still finished a couple of lengths in front of Viscount Tully (fourth), with Sir Peguant a destant 10th, It will be interesting to see how Edward Saymour reacts to the blinkers but he is the right type for this, having besten 16 others in the corresponding race two years ago. Viscount Tully went on to finish third of 19 behind revitaled its Grand at Huntingdon, so he is not easily ruled out, the problem being that he has not won since April 1994. Another 12-year-old to consider is Partislan, runner-up to Darmas fourth win this season) on his reappearance at Exeter and beaten three parts of a length by Killing Time at a Follestone seller in February, Both old horses go on testing ground. Life Ed-Time in a Folkestone seller in February. Both old horses go on testing ground. Like E ward Seymour, Evezio Rufo and Estimo Miss are fit and in fair form, while South We ward Seymour, Evezio Rufo and Estâmo Miles are fit and in fair form, white South West Express could be thereabouts despite being 4th out of the handicap. Curtarldge, who beat South West Express and Mixazari by a wide margin at Heritord, defield the penalty in a non-eeller at Taunton last Thursday. Selection: EDWARD SEYMOUR

2.20 MALLARD PAWNBROKERS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £4,945

C) 20;300-3000-3000-2017 4F1 TO your Periodicty Vehicle 24;345-555-250 SERVING MEDICINE (23) (D) (D) D 8 A SIA K Balley 10 2 0 Mer R Waldey (S) F34-65 CAPTAIN (CHEDIVE (15) (Knodice Partnership) G McCourt 8 th 11 D J Molfast 224-4 DESTRY CALLS (15) (D) (Mrs R Waldey (S) Releast N Cascilee 7 th 8 Physiol (S) R SIA-31 SERVING (LIGHT (19) (CD) (The Deeley Partnership) D McCourt 8 th 8 A Magaine 3-521 CHERYL'S LAD (23) (D) (Mrs Balne Barnes) D McColson 7 th 6 R Johnson

BETTING: 3-1 Charyf's Lad, 4-1 Strong Medicine, Shining Light, 11-2 Destiny Clam, 5-1 Hassac As, 8-1 Ediredon Blau, 10-1 others

PORM GUIDE

When Highbeath won at Market Rasen in April, Rustic Air finished second and SHIN-ING LIGHT was pulled up - but that clearly was not Shining Light's form and he had Rustic Air behind when winning at Huntingdon and on this course last season. Shining Light had only three opponents when winning the same Huntingdon race this time round but he should not be far away in this tougher contest. Rustic Air's one win last term came in a relatively soft race at Sedgefield, but he is 5ib better off for the five lengths that Shining Light best him over course and distance in January and, on his respectance at Haydock, he finished doser to Pongo Waring than Shining Light did in Abavards race at Easter. Pongo Warings trainet, Herrietta Knight, runs Ediredon Blau, who could be suited by the track after jumping right when fourth to Prate Box at Chepstow. Surely filter and 5ib lower, Ediredon Blau can last in front longer today, and it was over course and distance that he finished a respectable second to the useful Special Beat in a novice hundle in January on his first start since coming from France. We may not have seen the best of him yet. Sesides Shining Light, David Nichdson runs Cheryf's Lad, fourth to Star Rage in the 1995 County Hurdle for Nick Henderson but who did not spartie for either brainer last season, over fences and hurdles Despits novice chase wins at Market Rasen and Liudlow, Cheryf's Lad is not as effective over fences as he was over hurdles. He will not find if its straightforward in this handicap even if Strong Medicine's second to Super Tactors at Newbord and the strainer and second to Super Tactors at Newbord in the handicap even if Strong Medicine's second to Super Tactors at Newbord hands.

2 50 KNIGHTON NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added

<u>Z</u> .	JU	2m Penalty Value £2,784
	1	ZARALASKA (12) (D) (Lady Harrs) D Nicholson 6 11 5
	PC-	CASHAPLENTY (F13) (J. R. Seiter) N Literades 4 10 12
		COMPASS PORTER (P156) (R Carstans) J Eustace 4 10 12
ı		GUFTBOX (USA) (F108) (G J Allison) N Bycroft 5 to 12
i	045P-0	MAPENDANG DANGER (10) (Dallagh Construction Ltd) K Bindowater 4 10 12R Massay (
•	0	PATRINGTON BOY (26) (Frank Murphy) Williams 4 10 12
•	P	PURE AIR (6) (Mrs C Hicks) Wrs C Hicks 5 to 12 V Skatter
3		WAHEA SANDS (P27) (Lord Sweething) J Dunion 4 to 12
1	03	TNI MAGGY (NZ) (15) (Stanley W Clarke) S Brodishaw 7 10 7
•		LATIY SR K (P17) (Mass. J. F. Crazza) Mass. J. Crazza 6 90 7

FORM GUIDE

A classy handicapper on the Flat for Luca Cumani, ZARALASKA won in great style at Ascot 12 days ago and is being aimed at Cheltenham. He is scared off most of the worthite opposition, an exception being Wahiba Sands, but if he is to make a race of it he will have to take to hurdling even better than Zaralaska did at Ascot, At least Wahiba Sands. will nave to take to nuruing even better than Zaraeska on at Ascot, At least visitue Satus, encled the Flat season on an upbeat note, winning an Ayr handicap under '0 stone and a conditions race here before finishing the dat Doncaster to Sweetness Herself (won in France in the meantime). Fick of the others is I'm Maggy, a Flat winner in New Zealand and whose third to Hill Farm Slues in a meres' race at Haydock shows that she has what it takes to win over hurdes.

Selection: ZARALASKA

3.20 WALTHAM CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,343

- 4 declared -BETTING: 11-10 Fleat Cadet, 9-4 Dublin Tressure, 7-2 Nessun Doro, 7-1 Salisong, FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Runner-up and then pulled up a novice chases in the summer, FLEET CADET appreciated the return to hundles at Mariet Rasen, finishing second to the Mon, who went on to complete a hat-tinck. Last of eight over three and a quarter miles at Hereford next time. Fleet Cadet confirmed his living for this trip in A S limbs race at Warnick last morth, still in contention when falling at the final flight. Eddle Callaghan is an encouraging booking for Dublia Theasure, who beat a big field of maider hundlers in easy ground at Commel, but Nessun Dorn goes without the birtikers he ended up wearing two sassons ago, including when he won a race of this sort at Windsor. Selection: FLEET CADET

WINDSOR

HYPERION 12.30 Sharur 1.00 Special Beat 1.30 Vintage Claret 2.00 Better Offer 2.30 SIR DANTE (nap) 3.00 Strong Tarquin 3.30 Come On Penny GOING: Good

GOING: Good.

© Figure-of-eight course, Level, with sharp turns; 200yd run-in.

© Course north of town on A308 near junction 6 of M4. Stations at Windsor Central (service from London, Paddington) and Windsor Faveraide (service from London, Waterboo) im Fiver bus stops at course, ADMISSION: Club €14; Tettersalis £10; Silver Ring £4. CAR PARK; Club £2; remainder £st.to-salis £10; at course. ADMISSION: Cub 514; Tatiersalis 510; Silver Ring 54.
CAR PARK: Cab 52; emainder 51:50 or 51.

LEADING TRAINERS: K Balley 14-55 (255%), M Henderson 835 (22%), Misse H Kright 7-50 (14%), C Brooks 6-25 (24%),
LEADING JOCKEYS: M A REgeral 01-52 (22%), M Richards
9-75 (22%), J F Titley 5-35 (143%), G Bradley 5-39 (128%).

12.30 SPITAL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) \$2,925 2m

1	25-41	SHAHFUR (19) (CD) G L Moore 4 1/ 5 M A Fitzgerald
2	56	BULLFINCH (19) 9 Philips 4 10 12
3	51-12	DIAMOND HALL (23) (D) 1. Burks 4 to 12 R Durwroody
4	0.04	
5	00-0	KING OF SWING (26) V Scene 5 to 12 C Liewellyn
6		MELLORS (F33) M Heaton-Ellis 4 10 12 El Powell
7		NEGATIVE EQUITY (9) A Turnel 5 to 12 . D Bridgweller
8		NEWS FLASH (22) À Turnell 5 10 12
9	30-043	NORMANIA (NZ) (24) Miss S Edwards 5 to 12 P Hide
10		ROAD RACER (F128) PR Webber 4 to 12 . J A McCarthy
11		SEVERN REEF (10) J M Bradley 6 10 12 B Fention
12	F/SF-	SHADRIWAN (F26) J Akshurzi 6 10 12 . G Bradley
13		ZURS (F33) J Poulton 4 10 12 A Thornton
14	00-	PROPER PRIMETIVE (278) C Dreve 4 10 7 P Holley
15		SHARP MOVE (F21) Preside 5 to 7 No S Durack (5)
16		WILD RITA (F55) W Mur 5 10 7 D Gellegher
i		- 16 declared -
BET	TING: 3-	1 Shahna: 11-2 Diamond Hall. 13-2 Bullinch, 8-1 Karachi

adinuan, 12-1 Mellors, Negative Equity, 14-1 Road Recer, 16-1 others 1.00 PALEY STREET MARES HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 2m

| TOPHOLE (CLASS D) E.3,030 2111
| TURRIL HOUSE (FT) W Masson 5 to 3... B Powell
| TURRIL HOUSE (FT) W Masson 5 to 3... B Powell
| TURRIL HOUSE (FT) W Masson 5 to 0... G Tempey
| 40332 MRSS BRECONEL (661) Mrs J Pemer 8 to 0.Mr S Durack (5)
| CLASS PERSIAN BUTTERFU (1) D) R Storage 5 to 0 J Magges (3)
| Tophole (1) Tophole (1) Tophole (2) 2 Tophole (3) 2 Toph

– 7 declared – Minmum: 10ct. True wegits: Mass Percivel 9st 130, Persan Butterfly 9st 9b. BETTING: 5-2 Special Beats - 7-2 Turrill House, 9-2 Persian Butterfly, 5-1 Mas Brecknell, 11-2 Lonicara, Strong Cholce, 10-1 Halana

1.30 WOODSIDE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 3m

BETTING: 2-1 Scotty, 11-4 Into The Clan, 4-1 Segelino, Hum 'n' Haw, 9-2 Vistage Claret, 25-1 Father Fortune, Moodough Bay, Limosa

2.00 SPITAL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) \$2,925 2m

- 16 declared -SETTING: 13-8 Better Offer, 4-1 Biturred, 7-1 Caballos, 8-1 George Bull, Scout Around, 12-1 Halla Susalnine, Perfect Pal, 16-1 others

2.30 BDO STOY HAYWARD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £4,950 2m

3.00 DORNEY AMATEURS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 2m 5f

- 8 declared - Mrnimum weight: 10st 7lb. True Handcap weight: Another Course 10st 0lb. BETTING: 5-2 Strong Barquis, 3-1 Dames, Nescal, 4-1 Another Course, 5-1 Bit 01 A Touch, 10-1 Cell Home

3.30 PANGBOURNE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) \$2,575 2m 4f #2F27 DARK STRANGER (FR) (593) C Brooks 6 12 1 M Berry (7) P130- BOWCLIFFE COURT (F141) J Alehursi 5 11 9

BETTING: 4-1 Snowy Petral, 9-2 Cahachon, 11-2 Raday Wood, 6-1 Bow-ciffe Court, 13-2 Decklands Courier, 7-1 Pride Of Kashmiz, Come On Penny, 8-1 others

LINGFIELD (AW)

HYPERION 12.40 River Ensign 1.10 Hopeful Star 1.40 Re-haab 2.10 Shanghai Lil 2.40 Stoppes Brow 3.10

Lucy In The Sky 3.40 Vrennan GOING: Standard.

STALLS: Im - outside; rest - inside. DRAW: Low best in sprints.

■ Equitrack surface; left-hand, sharp unduksting course.

■ Resecourse is SE of town on B2028. Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members 213, Family Enclosure 28. CAR PARIK: Cub 23; remainder free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS: G L Moore 73-559 (331%), M Johnston 59-302 (635%), Lord Humfingdon 49-31 (202%), F Hannon 49-38 (125%).

■ LEADING TRAINERS: G L Moore 73-559 (331%), M Johnston 59-302 (635%), Lord Humfingdon 49-31 (202%), F Hannon 49-38 (125%).

■ LEADING TRAINERS: G L Moore 73-559 (31%), S Whitworth 40-293 (327%), D Biggs 39-483 (81%), W Ryan 38-20 (721%).

■ FAVOURITES: 768-2281 (33.9%).

BLRKERED FIRST TIME: Highland Lord (110), Tartem Party (140) (velocid), August Sound (310), Gilde Path (340).

12.40 BEAMISH BLACK HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV I) \$23,300 6f

– 9 Gestared – Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True handicap weight: Mo-Antk 7st 2th BETTBNG: 7-2 Rhete Englign, 4-1 Sharp Imp, Time 10 Fly, 5-1 Chipatand Bay, 6-1 Tachycardia, 7-1 Village Pub, 8-1 Sharazamatoz, 20-1 others

1.10 BECKENHAM WORKING MENS CLUB MAIDEN (CLASS F) 23,300 2YO 6F

- 10 declared -BETTING: 10-11 Missed The Cut, 3-1 Batchworth Belle, 8-1 Hopels! Star.

1.40 COURAGE COCKEREL LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 2m

- 11 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Hying Colours, 4-1 Father Den, Signed And Sealed, 7-1 Rehaub, Be True, 8-1 Rose Of Glans, 14-1 Chiscoraso, 16-1 others

2.10 COURAGE LEWES FILLIES HANDI-CAP (CLASS E) £4,025 1m

- 12 deci Minteum weight: 7st 10th. Time handisap weights. Square Mile Miss, Into Debt 7st 8th, Arnelin Jane 7st 5th, Laburi 7st 1th. DEFT/MISS. 21 Whitepered Meleody, 3-1 Orbhana, 8-1 Moon Feiry, Mayflower, Square Mile Miss, 10-1 Lady Godfwa, Into Debt, 14-1 others

2.40 COURAGE MAIDSTONE CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 1m

00-361 SECRET SPRING (FR) (J18) (CD) P Hedger 5 9 3 ...

- 5 declared -- 5 declared -BETTING: 15-6 Secret Spring, 5-2 Llonize, 3-1 Stoppes Brow, 9-2 Achame, 19-1 Pine Ridge Led

3.10 BEAMISH BLACK HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV II) £3,300 6f 584056 PRIENDLY BRAVE (16) (C) (D) Gay Kallaway 7 10 0 .

- 9 declared -BETTING: 3-1 Friendly Brave, Lucy in The Sky, 4-1 Sure To Dreses, 9-2 Minter Reider, 8-1 Aggest Sound, Belbay Star, 12-1 others

3.40 EASTBOURNE WORKING MENS CLUB AMATEURS HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2.875 1m 4f

225330 ROUFONTAINE (J26) (D) W Mur 6 11 7...Mr R Poolins (7) 6 20362 VRENWAN (B) J Farettees 3 10 15...Mss S Sareworth (4) 8 00000 GLOE PATH (6) GD J Lenters B 10 21....... Mill Mannish 4 8 12231 MR FORTYWNKS (13) (D) J L 464036 NOSEY NATIVE (10) (D) J Pearce 4 to 4 Jitrs L Pearce 7 to

- 9 declared
Minimure weight: Set. Title handler weight: Professor 9st 9tb.

SETTING: 9-4 Vrennan, 11-4 lift Fortymids, 11-2 Routentaine, Nr.
Native, Don't Drop Borobs. 12-1 Gilde Peth, Sheded, 25-1 others

RACING RESULTS

CATTERICK 12.20: 1. MARAUD (M Naughton) 20-1; 2. Swing Wost 5-4 lbr. 3. Linea-G 5-1 11 7. 14. (L. Lloyd-kames, Matton) Tote: 534.70: C740, C120 C170 DF C16120 CSF: 64481 Troi: £2610 (part wort) Non Runner: Telephone:

C4481 Truc: £12610 (part won). Non Purmer: Ticknthma.

12.50: 1. AUDREY'S PEARL (P. Niven). 7:2; 2. Lord Discord 1-2 tay; 3. Reeds 4-1. 11 ren. 37:. 17:. (Mrs. M. Roveley, Suttburn). Total 15:20; C240; C10; C150. DF 12250 CSF (S79 Truc: C1540 NR: Im Sitt Here. 12:0: 1. ALBEANING (Mr O McPhail) 13-2; 2. Boher 8-1; 3. Oakbury 10-1 12 ren. 4-1 tay Kierchem, 5, 27:. (R. Juckes, Abberloy). Total: C770, C320; C350; C240; OF 96240. CSF 158655. Treast: C488-46. Truc: 28820 (part won). NRs: Dark Midmight, Majat. 1,50: 1. SILVER MIDO(P. Niven). 3-1; 2. Xalpubt 11-4 fav; 3. Fm The Man 11-2 8 ran. 7: 21 (Mrs. M. Reveley, Sutburn). Total: C340; E140; C220; C110; DF 0330; CSF: £108 Theast: C389; Creakation, Royal Critison.

2.20: 1. CRAIGARY (B Grattan) 3-1 far, 2. Tip it in 7-2; 3. Mr Montague 4-1 7 ran. 27. 12: (Mrs A Swebank, Richmond) Tate: 54-50: £190. £240. DF: £380. CSF: £234 Tricast: C3665. NF! Parson's Lodge. 2.50: 1. DARK DAK (R Thernton) 18-1: 2.50: 1. DARK OAK (R Thermion) 16-1: 2. Kings Sermon 7-2: 3. Strongalong 12-1. 8 ran. 7-4 lav Fern Leader (48): 11/s, 21. (J Curte. Driffsed) Tote: £13.30: £300. £190 £150 DF £2730. CSF: £70.31 Tricast: £559.79 Trio £3720 NR Noose Sound. 3.20: 1. STONESBY (J Calaghan) 4-1; 2. What A Fiddler 7-1. 3. Whatdleyousary 20-1. 19 ran. 8-11 lav Southern Cross (8th) 1. 5 (G Moore, Middletam). Tote: £480; £230 £120 £330 DE 29an. £55 £098£2

1230, £120, £430 DF. £2610 CSF. £10562 Tno: £25590 (part wort) Placepot: £11000. Quadpot: £5360 Place 6: £7698. Place 5: £4826. FONTWELL 1.10: 1. WEATHER WISE (R Durwoody) 11-4; 2. Section's Mirror 20-1, 3. English Invader 4-1 11 ran. 9-4 (av Ela-Ment (48)).

4.3. (W Turner, Sherborne), Tote: £340; £140; £140; £580; £140; DF: £5340; CSF: £5423; Trio: £18430. 1.40: 1. KINGSDOWN TRIX (J Cultury) 25-1; 2. Secret Beauty 33-1; 3. Spy Knotl 11-4, 12 ran. 5-4 fav Kasteriee (8th), 9, 3%. (R Smith, Northleach). Tote: £3580; £490, £130, £140. DF: £122410 (per) won).CSF:

258336. Tno: 229050 (part won). NR: Heav enly Hand. 2.10: 1. JOLIVER (A P McCoy) 7-2; 2. Emerald Statement 3-1; 3. Kendal Cave-ller 13-2 9 ran. 15-8 fav Mystic Isla (pulled up). 1/4. (M Pipe, Wellington). Tota: £5.20; £150, £170, £150 DF, £980 CSF-£1428 Tno:

2.40: 1, BRECON (A Betes) 9-1; 2, Doctoor 4-9 fax; 3, Run For Dente 5-2, 4 ran. //., n. (W Mui, Lambourn) Tote: \$730, DF: £260 CSF: £13.47. 3.10: 1. GLENDOE (S McNell) 9-1: 2. Hooded Hawk 9-2; 3. Black Statement 14-1 9 ran. 9-4 lav Ragumuff (4th), 13, 4. (Andrew

8 fav; 2. Country Tarquin 3-1; 3. Merilena 9-1, 10 ren. 1/4, hd. (J. Gifford, Findon), Tota: Jackpot: not won (pool of £29,620,63 car-ried forward to Leicester today) Placepot: £892.70, Quadpot: £63.30. Place 6: £570.85. Place 5: £295.56.

1.00: 1. CROWN AND CLESTION (I. S./th-em) 7-1; 2. Sigma Wireless 20-1; 3. Didden 7-1; 2. Sigma Wireless 20-1; 3. Diddy Rymar 9-2 10 rat. 7-2 fav Stram (Sth) 17. 4. (T Greethead Tote: 57-40, 15:10 0.090, 52:00. DF: \$56.00. CSF: \$190.6 Incast: \$787.5 fin \$190.00

SOUTHWELL

1.30: 1. ROYAL EVENT (A Magure) 7-4 fav; 2. Tejano Gold 9-4; 3. Sidanora 12-1 11 ran. 11/6, 25. (D Gandolfo), Tota: £2.50;

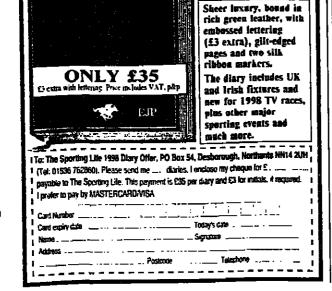
Turnell, Wantage). Tote: £10.70: £2.20. £2.40. £160. DF: £26.70. CSF: £44.19. Tricast: £51.40. £105.75 Tric: £56.40. 3.40: 1. NONE STIRRED (W Greener) 11- \$1.00 (t fav; 2. Eirespray 11-10) (t fav; 2. Eirespray 11-10) (t fav; 3. 25140. 2.00: 1. MR BOJANGLES (D Bridgme-ter) 11-10 jr tav; 2. Eireepray 11-10 jr tav; 3. Knock Star 66-1 9 ran. 4 5. jf Williams). Rote: C270; C140, C100, C1630, DF: C130, CSF:

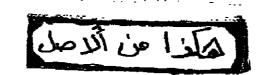
2236. Troi: 1268.10 (12636.10): 1130. CSF: 2236. Troi: 1268.0.

2.30: 1. AFTER THE FOX (R Greene) 3.1; 2. High Affithude 5.1; 3. Jeson's Boy 2.1 tax. 6 ran. 37; 6. (N Hawke). Tota: 2250; 5200. 1150. DE: EZZO. CSF: 17595.

3.00: 1. LOVABLE OUTLAW (P Midgley) 10-1; 2. Owens Guest 8-1; 3. Pearfs Choice 8-1, 11 ran. Evens fav Maybe O'Grady Hith, 5. 17; Missen Rowlandt Tota: 1448; 2330, 1290, 1190. DF: 54140, CSF: 2430; 2330, 1. RANGER SLOANE (A Thornton) 2-1 tax. 2. Carrolls Rock 8-1; 3. Sylvan Sabre 3-1 7 ran. 5. 20 (G Rero). Tota: 2360; 2160. CSF: 1250. CSF: 12507. Placepoit \$157.00 Quarter

THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTABLES RESULTS LEICESTER 971 981 WINDSOR 972 LINGFIELD 973 ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970 Calle cost 30p per calacate. ELS. plc, Screena S. EC.2A 4P





West Indies display 'unbearable' – Lloyd

West Indies 303 & 139 Pakistan 471 Pakistan win by and 29 runs

Clive Lloyd, the West Indies manager, and their captain, Courtney Walsh, attacked the performance of their team as they lost the second Test against Pakistan by an innings and 29 runs in Rawalpindi yesterday.

Lloyd said the West Indies performance was "unbearable", while Walsh criticised the batsmen for their failure. But both refused to blame the defeat on reports that there is a captaincy rift within the tourists' ranks.

After West Indies had fallen to a series defeat, both men

lacklustre performance by a team that has a number of talented players.

We did not put up a good performance, to say the least," Lloyd said. "It was the best pitch in the world after Brisbane and I must congratulate the groundsman, but it is difficult to put in words the way we performed."

Lloyd, who led the West In-

which also features England.

dies to a record 27 Tests without defeat between 1981-82 and 1984-85, was clearly disappointed and disgruntled over back-to-back innings defeats. They last lost two consecutive Tests by an innings against England in 1957.

"It is unbearable for me and for everyone back home," Lloyd said. But he dismissed instead blamed the losses on a claims of a captaincy battle be-

The West Indies leave for Karachi today to play the final Test starting on 6 December, their last match of the tour before leaving for Sharjah to play in the quadrangular tournament

Adam Hollioake, England's one-day captain, practises with some eager locals in Lahore yesterday ahead of his side's two warm-up games against Pakistan A this week. The serious business for England starts next week with the Sharjah one-day tournament in-Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Allsport

volving West Indies, Pakistan and India

ROYAL &

ILL THEY SAIL INTO HISTORY?

Can these women be the first all-female crew to sail

around the world non-stop? Can they steer their giant catamaran at speeds over 30 knots through all the dangers of the seas? Icebergs lie in wait for them. Fierce winds. Mountainous waves. And the vast unpredictability of the shifting weather. To do it, they will need all the experience of their skipper, Tracy Edwards. They will need strength of character as well as strength of limb. Many people think they will fail. But we believe in them. We're behind them. And experience tells us that when you can calculate the risks and keep a cool head, there's nothing you can't achieve. You can take on the world.

> ROYAL & UNALLIANCE

McEnroe ready to relive drama of fire and ice

John McEnroe is in London to help kickstart the Honda Challenge senior tour event at the Royal Albert Hall. Tomorrow he is due to renew his rivalry with Bjorn Borg. John Roberts asks the 38-year-old rebel if he is amused to be perceived as an elder statesman of tennis.

Life has been a pain in the arch this week for John McEnroe, Manhattan art gallery proprietor, frustrated rock musician, tennis commentator and competitor on the ATP Tour's "dinosaurs' circuit". In pursuit of the last, if not in the cause of nostalgia, he will risk his sore foot today on a carpet court at the Royal Albert Hall.

Is he pleased to be back playing in London? "Absolutely, because London was... er... London worked out. It had its sad moments, but it worked out."

The late Arthur Ashe once said that, "Against Connors and Borg you feel like your being hit with a sledgehammer. But this guy McEnroe has a stiletto; he just slices you up." If not with his racket, Ashe might have added, then certainly with his tongue.

Among the alterations since McEnroe was in his pomp there is a new No 1 Court at Wim-

bledon, which the New Yorker describes as "beautiful" while mourning the passing of the old No 1. It was there, in 1992, that he celebrated his last Grand Slam title, the douwith

Wimbledon," mused. "I was actually undefeated on that court."

Ah, yes, he even outpointed the mighty All England Club there with his infamous "pits of the earth" tirade while playing Tom Gullikson, a compatriot who now captains the United States Davis Cup team, in the first round in 1981. Far from being thrown off the court, McEnroe went on to win the first of his three Wimbledon singles titles, defeating Borg in the final.

Just as McEnroe's wonderful touch with the racket is missed, so is the charge of electricity he brought to the court, the element of self-destruction subject to the whim of a temperament far more highly strung than his rackets. Even his excesses tend to be viewed in a mellow light.

Well," he said, "you know how that goes. That's just time. You have some kids, people see you over the years and then they get more familiar with us. They realise that you weren't as bad as they thought you were and they'll find out that we weren't as good as they make us out to be."

'We'd better get that old rebel back. You know, it's in my contract in the seniors that I have to break one racket and yell at a few umpires every match. It's boring, you know. So I have to come up with something new."

At times, joking aside, he talks as if he is a missionary. Sure, you could do things different," he said, accompanying his words with lots of shrugging when asked about the turbulent nature of his career.

"All and all... you take the good with the bad. So my job now, having a chance to reflect on it, is to look on the good. Because, you know, it feels as if everything's so awful around the tennis circuit all the time, everyone's so uptight and negative. And I know that I was that way, unfortunately, sometimes so wound up in what I was doing, that if I can make the

players five per cent more relaxed, just being around the scene, that's my job. That's what I try to do when I do the television, make it a little looser, so that we get back to the idea a little bit that this actually is a game." And there is life in the

pey's cas les players

as mar City su

est to take being of

game. "I think that this year is a positive. We've got some new blood. You know, this is a great opportunity for a number of players. That guy Pete Sampras isn't going to stay No 1 forever. There's some great opportunities for the Rafters, the Rusedskis, the Henmans, the Kafelnikovs, to emerge and potentially challenge for the No 1 spot. I think this is about as good a time as they could hope for, right now."

No Americans? "Well, I don't see any. But 10 years ago, when we were busy playing the circuit, suddenly Agassi, Sampras, Chang and Courier appeared. This was after a couple of years of. 'America's in the doldrums'.

"But I do believe in the cyclical nature of the sport in some ways. It's going to be a little difficult for someone to just pop out of the pipeline again. Think of Germany before Becker, you basically hoped to play a German guy. You hoped to play a Swedish guy before Borg came along.

"The Spanish programmes have resulted in young guys coming out of the woodwork. And that's why. as you've probably noticed in

past, the potential for an English player has improved.

When I first came to England, they didn't have any indoor McEnroe

remains pastion that be

McEnroe Yannick Noah, of France, and Germany's Boris Becker into a captaincy or management role even before the United States, handicapped by an injury to Sampras, were whitewashed by Sweden in last weekend's final.

"I certainly would never say never." McEnroe responded. "I give the people credit that made those decisions to appoint Yannick and Boris. I wish America would be a little bit more radical. But Tom Gullikson is a nice man, and he won the Davis Cup two years ago. It may not be in the cards. You have to agree with too many people."

Has he found that be enjoys the senior tour more than he anticipated? "Yes and no. It feels fairly similar losing. The similarity in the questioning in your head, really, because one of the reasons why I stopped [playing on the regular tour] was the inability to handle losing very well. And, then, if I lose to a guy and he's seven years older than me... Connors is 45 now, and I'm still losing to him. So it's rather embarrassing in a way. But, at the same time, it just doesn't get out of your blood. The competitive urge, at some level. just doesn't go away. And also the competition has actually picked up.

Does his blood still rise to

the challenge of Borg? "Well, it's not the same as when we played the big ones... But it's amazing how you do get into that same type of thing. You know, I sort of chip and charge and he hits the passing shot. It's the same deal." If only their chemistry of fire and ice could be trapped in a time capsule.

www.rsachallenge.com

Pompey's cash crisis leaves players unpaid

they had not yet been able to earliest stage. pay last month's wages to their players and staff.

warned that the Fratton End Saturday's game against Stoke as renovation work has been balted because the builders nave not being paid in full,

A Portsmouth spokeswoman nfirmed that the club have n experiencing a "temporary '1-tlow problem", but insistve their November wages near future.

Ty Venables, who was reto have bought a connterest in the club for just he summer, is meeting i financial consultants resolve the situation his return from Ausled World Cup qualitempt last night.

hough he has pledged to the club, who are ottom of the First Didmitted there is a conoblem with finances". ub spokeswoman, who was the first time playot been paid on time. ur cash-flow problems

n well chronicled. We

terday as the club confirmed resolving the situation at the

"We have got people workwith transfer fees for players we have sold.

"Mr Venables has been in escalated during that time, but now he is back at the helm and involved in meetings with banks and financial people to sort it hat staff and players would out. We are disappointed that the matter has entered the public forum, when people have been assured it would be dealt with swiftly and adequately in-

> She also confirmed that work had been halted on the structure below the Fratton End stand which includes a restaurant, because of the financial problems, "We need to pay the builders, but the money from the Football Trust only arrives in monthly instalments," she said.

> Fans, including season ticket holders, have been told to await further information as to whether the stand will be open for Saturday's match.

The spokeswoman insisted ade no secret of them. that the problems were

The extent of Portsmouth's fi- We have a particular problem nowhere near as bad as 20 nancial plight was revealed yes- this week, but are confident of years ago, when a fund-raising campaign had to be launched to keep the club afloat.

But many supporters seem ing around the clock to ease the to have lost patience with the Supporters have also been cash-flow problem. We are club, who almost reached the owed a lot of money, but that play-offs last year, but have stand may have to be closed for is staggered over time, such as since slumped into the relegation zone.

> John Westwood, a member of the supporters' club who Australia and a few things have has officially changed his middle names to "Portsmouth Football Club", said: "Everyone respects Terry Venables' abilities as a football coach, but much less so as a businessman. We seem to have stumbled from disaster to disaster which is especially frustrating if you look at the potential here."

Venables went on local television last night to explain that although the bank had been "very tough", he still believed he would be successful in attracting more money into the club. Brendan Batson, of the Pro-

fessional Footballers' Association, said none of the Portsmouth players had approached the PFA about not having received their wages, which should have been paid into their accounts last Friday. But he said: "We are aware that The Referees' Association has there seems to be a short-term problem and we will be check-



Roy Evans, the Liverpool man-

ager, has been in talks with Oldham about signing their England Under-21 full-back Carl Serrant, who is also being tracked by Blackburn, Leeds and Leicester. West Bromwich Albion have already bid £600,000. Serrant's contract is up in the summer when, under the

Bosman ruling, he could leave for Peter Willis, spokesman for nothing. Oldham want £1m, but Liverpool may offer a package deal worth that in installments. Peter Ridsdale, the Leeds

chairman, said yesterday he was "disappointed" that Rod this man is on the Fifa list as a Wallace and Gary Kelly had not linesman. He is an absolute dissigned long-term contracts with grace to professional football." the club. Kelly still has a year left but Wallace will be a free

Iffy Onuora after an allegation that he assaulted a spectator.

Leeds were also unhappy at yesterday's news that Harry Kewell has been selected to play for Australia in this month's Confederation Cup in Saudi Arabia, Kewell has been included in a 20-strong squad who also include Mark Bosnich of Aston Villa, Stan Lazaridis of West Ham and Southampton's

Robbie Slater. Australia's assistant coach, Raul Blanco, said that under Fifa rules clubs had no option but to release their players and he was adamant that all those selected would be in Saudi Arabia for the eight-nation tour-

a leg to stand on," Blanco said. "Legally, they can't do it." Juventus are reported to be considering buying a 10 per cent stake in Crystal Palace. The Italian club's vice-president, Roberto Bettega, was due to attend

nament. "Clubs just don't have

last night's game at West Ham. Manchester United will have a fourth look at the Chilean striker Marcello Salas before the

end of the month. United scout Martin Ferguson, younger brother of manager Alex, is to fly to South America to see the 22-year-old play for his Argentinian club side, River Plate.

Gary Mabbutt, the Tottenham defender, has told new coach Christian Gross he still wants to play for the club, despite being left out of Saturday's match at Everton. The 36-yearold, whose contract runs out in the summer, has been with Spurs for 15 seasons.

Across north London, Arschal are reported to be interested in the St Johnstone full-back Callum Davidson, after an impressive performance

against Rangers last Saturday. Meanwhile, the Perth club's attempts to sign Swedish striker Lars Gunnar Karlstrand could be thwarted by Britain's quarantine rules. The player is stalling over a move to Scotland after learning he may have to leave his pet rottweiler, Ted, in Sweden.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Workington find safety in consortium

The three clubs looking down the barrel of expulsion from the game had what might be termed mixed fortunes at the Rugby League Council meeting at Salford yesterday, with one surviving, one committing suicide and one entering a sort of limbo.

Workington Town managed to convince their peers that they can get out of their financial pit and they will continue to be members of the League with their full share of money from News Limited next season. A new commitment of finance from a consortium headed by the Cumbrian businessman. Bill Dobie, swung the balance in their favour.

Prescot, serial strugglers under various names for as long as anyone can remember, jumped before they were pushed, sending a letter that said they no longer wished to be members.

The club has been on a final warning since January last year about the need to raise its standards and would have attracted little or no support for any

bid to remain in existence. Keighley, who like Workington have been in administration for more than year. remain in business, but whether they will receive any cash allocated to them is in doubt.

Peter O'Hara, the administrator who has been running the club, added a twist to proceedings by taking out a court injunction preventing the Council from considering their membership or their funding.

In the event, no argument was raised against them remaining in membership, but the board of directors, which had previously recommended their expulsion, was empowered to consider their funding should a court hearing in Leeds tomorrow lift the injunction.

Assuming that Keighley do participate next year, that will leave 19 clubs outside Super League. They are meeting today to try to thrash out a fixture formula but indications were that they would opt for one division and a gruelling 36-game season.

The winner of that division will qualify for promotion to Super League if it meets criteria, which will be set down before the end of next season. But there will be no relegation from Super League.

The newly reformed Oldham associate membership of the League, has made its first signing. John Hough, the former Warrington hooker who has been freed by his previous club, has signed a one-year contract. along with Darren Robinson, who played reserve-team rugby for the now defunct Oldham Bears last season.

Lokeni Savelio, the Western Samoan forward, who was briefly on the transfer list at Salford last season, has signed a new versity during which he played one-year contract with the club. - Dave Hadfield

uries mar City success

be the turning point of itmare season. Their er, Kevin Horlock,

idfielder Georgi Kinire both doubtful by's home match with chieved only their secv win of the season at

om on Tuesday night ~

ım Forest - but lost foth players with injuries. Horlock, captain for the first

nounced on the Dutch Whit-

vesterday in order to turn

around the fortunes of a boat

The original skipper Roy

legs to Cape Town and Fre- and Eric Drouglazet.

SAILING

ter City could pay a relieved of the skippers' armof fans' abuse, was injured after 35 seconds.

The midfielder was carried off with a knee injury following constant treatment in an effort to play on Saturday. Kinkladze limped off near the end with thigh and ankle problems.

Alan Hill, City's assistant manager, said: "Both must only t being at leaders Nothave 50-50 changes of playing. It will be 24 hours at least before we have a better idea, but time after Kit Symons was they are both a worry for us."

bread entry Brunel Sunergy Southampton. The British nav- port came in, but it was thought

which has been last on the two will leave along with Herve Jan though he had sailed many

lier after feeling that the pro-

Wiersma, a property develop-

Heiner returns to take helm of struggling Brunel Sunergy

Joao Cabecadas of Portugal onciliation difficult, even

van Bergeijk as skipper before the way has been cleared for his

Bouscholte replaced Arend gatta circuit. Now it seems that

City will not consider the ce for the victory they band 24 hours earlier because problem of who is to be the next captain until Horlock is ruled out. Nobody took the armband at the Hawthorns. "Somebody should have done his first tackle, and will receive so officially but it got overlooked," Frank Clark, the manager, said. "I hope that doesn't mean they will take the three points off us. Thankfully, we had 11 skippers out

> The result and performance was in sharp contrast to the defeat at their neighbours, Stockport, last weekend.

supports referee Lynch

defended match official Kevin Lynch after he came under fire for sending off five players, including four from Bristol Rovers, during Tuesday night's Second Division game against Wigan at Springfield Park.

the association, said he was "saddened" by comments made by Geoff Dunford, the Rovers vice-chairman, after the game. Dunford said: "To think that

There was further controversy at Luton where referee Paul Taylor has requested video evidence to show what hanpened after a 22-man brawl broke out during the game with Gillingham, Bedfordshire police have interviewed Gillingham's

we must take the view that he may not be here beyond the end

BASKETBALL

agent in the summer and Ris-

dale has made it clear that he

to wish to wait," Ridsdale said.

"If he carries on with his stance,

"Rod Wallace would appear

will not be held to ransom.

Worthing opt for strength after McElduff departs

Wholesale changes were an- givue of Switzerland, who left er, lacked sufficient funding. Af- Bruce Farr. It came from the Worthing Bears have strengthafter the first leg from ter he left, more financial sup- board of the German/Dutch ened their playing roster by signdesigners Judel and Vrolijk in ing the American point guard igator, Stuart Quarrie, stays, but that Heiner would find a rec- Hamburg and has suffered a Joel Burus and the Canadian guard Greg Francis, subject to number of setbacks, including having to call into Recife, Brazil, securing work permits.

The Budweiser League club. forced to re-group following the withdrawal of the owner, Greg Fullerton, and the departures of their coaches, Chris Jones and Neil McElduff, are also aiming to re-sign the Canadian forward Shawn Swords.

Swords quit after Jones an-

at Worthing for eight-and-a-half years, took over from Jones, but resigned vesterday, having been in charge for just one game. The American forward Ryan Williams has taken over the running of the team until the end of the season.

nounced his resignation three Worthing co-owner and direcweeks ago and since then the tor of operations, hopes Swords point guard Ryan Cuff and the will be back in the team for the captain Ben Caton have also left. visit of Crystal Palace on Sat-McElduff, assistant coach urday in the Uni-ball Trophy.

Burns, who is 6ft 2in and will take over at point guard from Cuff, played five games for Watford Royals at the beginning of the season. Francis, 6ft 3in, had four years at Fairfield Uniin 115 games.

SPORTING DIGEST

mantle so far.

Dravid holds

India 247-3 v Sri Lanka

hallenge in the third and final #st in Bombay yesterday.

econd Test at Nagpur, fell this ime for 93 - but he helped India consolidate with a 150-run stand for the third wicket with Sauray Ganguly (92 not out).

Heiner will retake the helm af- the start of the race, while return.

ter the departure of Hans Heiner had departed much ear-

Actiletics. Jayasinghe, Sri Lanka's sole medal wir-ner at this year's World Champi-onships, has resumed training after assurances from sport officials that she will not be sexually harassed in the fu-ture. The 200m silver medalist at Athens in August, stopped training for three months after accusing a top sports ministry official of pressuring her to marry him.

Basketball NBA: Charlotte 121 Sacramento 102: Washington 95 Seattle 78: Atlanta 112 Dallas 79: Houston 112 Denver 101; Prioente 90 Milwaskee 86: San Antono 90 New York 84; Orlando 89 Portland 88.

Cricket

TOUR MATCH (Cape Town): Western Province Academy XI 134 for 6 v England Under-196 Football

Dean Richards, Wolves' £4m-rated central defender, has returned to full training for the first time in almost 12 months. The 23-year-old has been

team action for u = . Year programme.

Brunel Sunergy is the only

Luton Town's former chief coach, Wayne Turner, has walked out of the Second Division side, efter turning down atternative employment with the club, who last week demoted him from the position he had held for two years. the position he had redu for two years, Irving Korn has conceded defeat in his battle to stay as Nottingham Forest chairman. Korn was last week asked to resign by the club's new owners but initially said he would not go unless he was sacked. However, at a routine meeting of the Forest board he bowed to the new owners' request but will continue as a director.

continue as a director.

Shamo Quaye, who played for Sweden's UMEA FC club and was a member of the national team that won Ghana a bronze medal at the Barcelona Olympics, has died after being hit in the lace by a ball. The force of the hit to Quaye's face apparently caused swelling that blocked vehs in his neck and cut off blood supply to the brain. He was 26 years old.

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Re-gratinged fibtures: Fri 12 Dec Chicold Vid V Queen's Park Rangers: Bristol Rovers v Grinsby: Cambridge Und v Exeter (all from 13 Dect. Sum 14 Dect. Wolves v Nottingham For-est (from 13 Dect.

der after hitting a whale.

On the second leg, the back-

stay broke, allowing the top sec-

tion of the mast to bend

times for Wiersma on the re- on the first leg to fit a new rud-

boat of the remaining nine not forward, and the crew then had

to have been designed by the to nurse the 64ft yacht through

US-based New Zealander the southern ocean.

GOIF

WPGET CUALIFYING SCHOOL (Aroeka, Aron) Leading second-round scores (GB or Irl unless stated): 141 L Philo (US) 77 70 143 L Kreutz (Fr) 370; L West (US) 72 71 145 A Murit (Aus) 78 71; T Poulton 76 GB AB Sarchaz Torreblanca (Spin 71, 147 L Dermott 76 71, 148 J Castanier (Fr) 75 73. S Cavated (0) 75 71, 148 J Castanier (Fr) 75 73. S Cavated (0) 75 73. L Educate 73 75; E Essent (Ger) 73 75; 149 M de Boer (Neit); 75 73; I Macon (8) 72 77: A Hopers 76 75; S Lambert 77 72. M McKay 78 75; 150 C Duffy 76 74; M Madil 75 75; S Gallagher 76 76 75; S Gallagher 76 76; S Gallagher 76 76; S Gallagher 76 76; W Witshom (Fr) 76 76; J Clover 75 76; U Witshom (Fr) 76 76; J Clover 75 76; L Greve (Den) 77 75; K Frigs (Swe) 77 18; T Lipp (Can) 76 76; S S Hotted (Swe) 77 76. A Ha che (Be) 80 73. M Garlsson (Swe) 77 76. B 154 R Lautern (Swe) 77 77. K Thomas 79 75. L Invine 77 77; K Thomas 79 75. L Hod (Swe) 87 76; 154 R Lautern (Swe) 77 76. A Ha che (Be) 80 73. M Garlsson (Swe) 77 76. B 154 R Lautern (Swe) 77 77. K Thomas 79 77. L Hod (Swe) 87 76; R Nugent 76 79; C Tusson Firetal (U) 81 78, G Scott (NL) 79 76. S H Bauer (Fr) 79 78, 156 E Aron (Fr) 80 76; S Dickson 77 79, H Ohisson (Swe) 73 63.

Non National League clubs Welton and Harleston Magples have been re-warded with home ties in the lifth round draw of the EHA Women's Cup but little else as they face Premier League opponents. Welton ententain Cup holders Hightown and Harleston are expecting Trojans. Cup favourties Slough visit Division One leaders Leicester in the round's top clash. EHA WOMEN'S CUP Fifth round draw: Clifton Scotteh Life v Chelmslord Highway: Concaster Poynton; Harrisstan Magnes v Tro-jars; Letesster v Slough: Loughborough Stu-dents v Clion Terraquest: Sutton Codfield v Bradsnet; Welton v Hightown; Wicking Switts v Alchdige, (Tree to be played on Sunday 15 February).

Ice hockey NHL: St Lous 3 New Jersey 1: Ottawa 4 NY Islanders 2: Washington 3 NY Rangers 2 (of); Toronto 3: Arrahem 3 (of); Colorado 4 Ed-

Pools dividends

17
BRITTENS: Treble chance 23pts £1:48.80:
22 £1155: 21 £160. Four draws £30.60. Five sways £490. Eight homes £160.
VERNONS: Treble chance 22pts £7; R740; 21 £595; 20 £480. Super shots £5500 (pad on 3 correct); Premier 10 £160 (pad on 8 correct).

to suspend Perrie for foul play was cor-rect and that a 26-week ban should

Enima Westmascott, the British watch leader who recently completed the Cape Town to Fremantie leg of the Whitherad EF Education, is to be part of an 11-strong all-women team bid-ding to break the round the world sall-na recent States Time Education.

Swimming Three top Pussian swimmers, including an Olympic gold medalist and a world record holder, have tested pos-itive for for anabolic steroids at a train-ing camp in Cyprus in October and will not participate in next months

FIXTURES

EURIPHION MATCH Europe v Rest of the World (3.45) (Stade Visionium, Marselles) HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Dundak v Sigo Rovers (7.45) AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Milwell v Luton (2.0).

world championships. Vladimir Pysh-nenko, Natalia Mescherjakova and Olga Kochetkove have been told by the Russian Swimming Federation they will not swim for Russia in Pertit, Australia, naxt month even it they es-cape a ban by the international swim-ming federation FINA.

Tennis
Britain's policy of playing two leading teenagers with one experienced player paid dividends when they beat Germany 3-0 in the first round of the Champion's Division at the European Ments Team Championship in Reggio Calabria, Italy, yesterday. The British squad of 28-year-old Darny Sapestord, of Surrey, and two 19-year-olds, Martin Lee, of Worthing, and Arvind Parmar, of Hitchen, did not lose a set. They will now play either the Czech Republic or Israel in the servi-fixals tomorrow. EUROPEAN MEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (Reggie Calabria, IV) Champion's Division, first round: Greet British 3 Germany 0 (A Pannar (SB) til Pred (Cer) 7-6 7-6, D Sapelod bit D Earner 7-5 6-2; Sapstond and M Lee it M Hantschik and F Ner 8-3 8-4; MASTERS OF CHAMPIONS WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Frankfurt, Ger): Group One: M Hings (Switt) th M Pierce (17) 7-8 8-4. Group Two: 1. Davenport (US) bit 1 Spiries (Rom) 5-7 6-2 6-3.

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of months in jail Silvio Bertusconi, the Milan president, was sentenced to yesterday on charges of false accounting, although he will not go to prison as sentences of under two years are rarely served in Italy. He was also fined 10m lire (£3,500).

FOOTBALL RESULTS Tuesday's late results

Tuesday's late results
NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE First
Division: Ipswich 1 Middesbrough 1; Sheff
Urd 3 Stoke 2; West Bromwich 0 Man City
1 Second Division: Blackpool 0 Plymouth
0; Bournemouth 0 York 0; Brietol Cay 3 Burnley 1; Futharn 1 Brentland 1; Granstry 0
Wycombe 0; Luton 2 Gibraffam 2;
Northampion 0 Chesterfeld 0; Oldham 3
Cariste 1; Southend 3 Preston 2; Wigan 3
Bresot Rovers 0; Wiecham 1 Watbrd 1; Third
Division: Doncaster 2 Chester 1, Esster 1
Lincoln City 2: Hartispool 2 Put 2; Leyton
Owert 2 Barnet 0; Peterborough 1 Cambridge
Urd 0; Swansea 1 Rotherham 1; Torquay 2
Mansfield 1.

Mansfield 1
FA UNSRO TROPHY Third qualitying round replays: Granthem 1 Marrie 0 Post-pened: Abrigdon Town v Situngbourne; Margate v Corby Town.
DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier division: Gloucester City 1 Saisbury 1. Southern Division: Postponed: Feet Town v Bashley Langue Cup Second round: Sedworth Und 1 Wicrosster 0: Clawley Town 0 St Leonards 1 Postponed: Clevedon v Forest Green.

RYMAN LEAGUE Second Division: Mer Poloe 5 Bracknell Town 0: Windsor 8: Etch 0
Hungerford Town 0: Postponed: Egitem
Rown v Marlow, Third Divisions: Kingsbury
Town 0 Epsom 8: Ewell 1: Postponed: Hertord Town v Fleckwell Heath Guardian Insurrance Cup Second-round replay:
Weathstone 2 Hightim Town 6: Pull Mamblers
Cup Second round: Barton Rovers 0 Harrow Borough 2: Chestram Urd 0 Gravesend
8 Northibert 3: Staines Town 3: Sutton Urd
0: Urbridge 1: Heybridge Swifts 1 (Uxbridge
won 5-4 on pers): Yeating 3 Wembley 2:
Postponed: Carsholton Athletic v Aldershot
Town: Harngsur v Maidenhead Urd: Leatherhead v Cherbey Town.

Third round: Spernymoor Uts 1 Beston Utd 3. Postponed: Altrincham v Colwyn Bay; Blyth Spartans v Frickley Altrietic. Byth spartars of Pricely Americ.
INTERLINK EXPRESS Midland Allience:
Persone Town 0 Kings Norton Town 4, Rocester 1 Barwel 1.
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First
Division: Littlehampton Town 5 Portfield 1;
Selsey 1 Wick 1. Postponed: Languey
Sports v Hassocks; Peacehaven 8.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Division: Postponed: Heme Bay v Folkestone Invicta. Ramsgate v Lordswood: Tunbridge Wells v Chatham Town.

Webs v Chatham Town.
JEWSON LEAGUE Premier Division: Watten Utd 0 Stowmarket Town 3; Wrothem 3 Newmarket Town 1. Postponed: Clacton Town v Sudbury Town League Cup Second round: Postponed: Great Yarmouth Town v Warboys Town; Hadleigh Utd v Gorleston; Lowestont Town v Histon; Sudbury Town Res v Norwich United; Tiptree Utd v Woodbridge Town.

SCREWENT DIRECT LEAGUE Premier SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Pauton Rovers 0 Chard Town 0. NATION/VIDE GOLD CUP Final: Gentavon 4 Colerane 2 and Mandows Death Resident GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES CUP Second round, second leg. Barger O Forthmadog 0 (5-0 on agg); Connahs Quay 0 Caertarton Town 3 (1-5 on agg); TNS Lansanthraid 1 Cernaes Ynys Mon 3 (1-4 on agg); TNS

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division Tran-ARNOTT INSURANCE NOTTH LEAGUE First Division: South Shields 0 Stockton 0. Postponed: Tow Law Town v Billingham Synthonia.

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Second THE THREE THE TOURS I MENCHESTE UND 1; Portsmouth 5 Enth 8 Belvedere () Post-poned: Bury v Peterborough Utd.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION Pirst on: Arsenai 1 Norwich O TOYOTA WORLD CLUB CHAMPI-ONSHIP (Tokyo): Borussa Dortmund 2

Zelss Jene 1 (effer edro bne; Jene win 4 2 on penebest; Um 1 VfB Stuttgart 3 SPANISH CUP Third round first leg: Las Palmas 3 Moliorca 2

Terry Rymer has joined Tearn Suzuki for next season's MCN British Superbike series. The 30-year-old former feam Kawasaki rider joins James Haydon on the GSX-R 750 and has been linked with Suzuki France for the World Endurance Championship in 1998.

Motor racing
Motor sport's world governing body,
FIA, yestarday became the latest federation to be recognized by the international Olympic Committee. The
Paris-based international automobile
federation was granted provisional
recognition by the IOC executive
board, although François Carrard,
the IOC director general, stressed that
FIA is not trying to become an
Olympic sport: "There are a number
of areas where their experiences can
be internesting for us, and they recogrize the overall role the IOC is leading." he said.

UTTILEWOODS: Trable chance 23pts \$720,28200; 22pts \$3,5055; 21pts \$7840, 20pts \$3485; Half time 19pts, \$165,25; Four draws \$4825; 8 Homes \$3,25; Five everys

Rugby Union

Coca-Cola will renew its sponsorship for the next two nugby World Cup tour-naments in 1999 and 2003. The 1999 tournament is being held in Wales. Alan Perrie, the Glasgow Hawks prop, will be out of rugby until April after losing his appeal against a six-month ben imposed for punching Edinburgh Academicals centre Craig Murray. The Scottish Rugby Union appeals committee ruled that the original decision

ding to break the round the world salling record. Skipper Tracy Edwards yesterday announced that the 92ft catamaran Royal & Sun Alitance would be on stand-by from 17 December, but likely to start in early January. The record was taken by Frenchman Otivier de Kersauson in May this year with 71 days 14hr 18min and 8sec when he broke Peter Blake and Robin Knox-Johnston's time of just under 75 days. It was in the same boat which Edwards now campaigns but then named Enza.

MAHNUPA INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE (Bombay) Second round: Jereter Khan (Pak) ID Jenson(Aus) 5-4 5-1 18-77 5-70, J Pow-er (Can) bt A Weigh (Eg) 5-2 5-5 5-1; B Darls (Aus) bt C Rowland (Aus) 5-8 6-9 5-11; D Ryan (II) bt Al Health (Sco) w/o (Rhess)

Football

Other sports TENNIS: ATP Senior Tour of Champions (Royal Albert Hall, London).

Bouseholte, Part of the deal will mean Heiner bringing in three ject, put together by Benno others, including Gerald Ro-CRICKET off Sri Lanka

Rahul Dravid was out in the rervous 90s for the second Test unning but still helped India tave off an early Sri Lankan

Navan Mongia was bowled he second over by Pramot Wickramasinghe and then y. of Sidhu was caught trying av) t the spinner Kumara harmand, who made 92 in the

Fall: 1-1 2-55 3-273.
To ber: M Artenutico, A Kumble, J Smeath R K Chauten A Kurusico, A Kumble, J Smeath R K Chauten A Kurusico, A Kumble, J Smeath R K Chauten A Kurusico, Problem R-5 37-0 [1-hb]; Web-raman R-5-9-0 [1-hb]; Web-raman R-5-9-0 [1-hb]; Web-raman R-5-9-0 [1-hb]; Web-raman R-5-8-1 [1-hb]; Web-raman R-5-8-1 [1-hb]; Web-raman R-5-8-1 [1-hb]; Web-raman R-5-8-1 [1-hb]; Web-raman R-1 [1 mpiros: A V Jayaprakash (Ind) and S A Buctor (IVI)

Postponed: Carshanon Americ v Aldershot Town; Hampton v Maidenhead Und: Leather-head v Cherbsey Yown. UNIBOND LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP

Cruzeiro ().
GERMAN CUP Third round: MSV Duisburg
GERMAN CUP Third round: MSV Duisburg

DUTCH LEAGUE: Groningen 0 Heeren

England are preparing to field yet another reshuffled back division against New Zealand in the rugby union Test at Twickenham on Saturday, with a student rookie, David Rees, and two non-specialist wings, Austin Healey and Tim Stimpson, competing for the dubious honour of confronting Jeff Wilson and a certain Mr Lomu. Chris Hewett finds the red rose army in disarray.

Oh to be an All Black selector. The all-conquering New Zealanders suffered what should have been two debilitating injury setbacks yesterday when Sean Fitzpatrick, their talismanic captain, and Craig Dowd, his front row sidekick from Auckland, called in sick. Fitzpatrick, who has struggled all tour with a knee condition, misses this weekend's finale with England while Dowd's dodgy hamstring will almost certainly prevent him starting the game. Did the bad tidings cost John Hart, the coach, a single moment's shut-eye? Of

Hart simply reconfirmed

placement - the aggressive Southlander has punched his considerable weight in all three Tests so far - and named Anton Oliver, probably one of the best half-dozen hookers in world rugby, on the bench. Meanwhile, Mark Allen, the formidable Manawatu Bull, was bracketed with the doubtful Dowd in the loose-head position.

Clive Woodward and his England selection panel are not quite so comfortably off, particularly in the creative areas. Nick Greenstock, a try-scorer against the Springboks six days ago, dislocated a shoulder joint

Norm Hewitt as Fitzy's re- during training on Tuesday night and joins three other prized members of the midfield fraternity - Alex King, Mike Catt and Jeremy Guscott - among the walking wounded. Wood-ward is hoping against hope that Phil de Glanville, the former national captain, recovers from his ankle trouble in time to confront the Blacks. If he fails, Matt Perry is likely to move to outside centre with Tim Stimpson,

> filling the hole at full-back. Stimpson may feature anyway, in the unfamiliar position of wing. England's decision to dispense with the services of the

called into the squad vesterday.

known as John Bentley, after 64 unusually anonymous minutes against the South Africans, is understandable. However, a strange reluctance to recall Adedayo Adebayo of Bath to the fray leaves the selectors badly exposed in both wing positions. David Rees, three caps into

his Test career, is certain to fill one of them, with Austin Healey, England's first-choice scrum-half as recently as last spring, a marginal favourite to join him in the firing line. Both men enjoy a tackle but they would have to stand on each other's shoulders just to estab-

Lion of Cleckheaton, better lish a nodding acquaintance with Jonah Lomu's navel. Woodward has taken a gamble or two already this season, but this would be something else

> Two of England's back-row contingent, Neil Back and Chris Sheashy, were also carrying minor injuries yesterday and while both were expected to pass imminent fitness tests. Woodward sensibly opted to delay naming his side until lunchtime today. It was left to Lawrence Dallaglio, the captain, to sound an upheat note.

"People have described this series against the southern

but it's been the best thing that could have happened to us," he said. "Yes, it's been a painful process - the supporters want ictories and so do we and it's difficult to find much to cheer about when we lose 29-11, as we did against the Boks last weekend - but it's a beneficial process, too. We have to go through this; the alternative is to cover over the cracks, as we did in '93 when we beat the All Blacks with five penalties. They went away and revolutionised their rughy while we sat back, thinking everything was hunkydory when it obviously wasn't.

hemisphere nations as suicidal, By playing these games, we're putting ourselves in a better position to become the best. SILLOW TO SECURITY OF THE COST.

NEW ZEALAND TEAM (v England in Time at Tericleonhers on Seturday): C Culen; J Wisson, F Bunce, W Little, J Lonn; A Weintens, J Marshalt, M Allen or C Dowd, N Hewitt O Brown, I Jones, R Brooke, T Rendell J Knoriold, Z Brooke, Replacements.

The Rugby Football Union's International Board representative, John Jeavons-Fellows. faces a vote of no confidence when the 50-strong RFU council meets tomorrow. The RFU management board chairman 🦃 Cliff Brittle, is thought to be unhappy with the way Jeavons-Fellows represents the RFU on IB

Marseilles welcomes the world to their party

The eyes of the world will be on Marseilles as the French city hosts tonight's World Cup draw. It is most ambitious draw in the tournament's history possibly, reflects Glenn Moore in the ancient port, too ambitious.

The stage is built, 643 qualifying games completed, 38,000 invitations and 1,181 media passes issued, every hotel room for 30 a hig party," said Platini. "We miles is full and, from the window of mine (somewhere on the ring-road), I can see council workers painting over anti-government graffitti.

Marseilles is almost ready for the biggest day in its 26-century history, the draw for the XVIth World Cup. There are only two problems, the transport workers and the weather.

with an opportunism the French coach Aimé Jaquet would welcome in his own strikers, have called a one-day stoppage over pay and conditions which could paralyse an already congested city. Negotiations broke down late on Tuesday, no further talks are planned, and the the controversial centre-right Mayor, Jean-Claude Gaudin, has appealed for lorry drivers and private bus-drivers to come forward and help ferry the 25,000 voungsters who have been invited to the draw to the Stade Vélodrome.

Last-minute negotiations may yet settle that dispute but even Michel Platini, co-presi-

dent of the organising committee and France's greatest-ever player, cannot influence the weather. To the organisers' relief it was dry yesterday but still cold and windy. Suddenly the idea of staging an open-air draw is looking over-ambitious.

Rain is not regarded as a major problem as the draw is under cover (though most of the 38,000 spectators are not). Strong wind, and Le Mistral is in full cry, will be and not just because it will push temperatures for the three-hour extravaganza towards zero. "We imagined this draw as

wanted it to be for everybody, not 1,500 VIPs. But there is no covered stadium in France. This is the second largest and the most southernmost, so we hoped there may be sunshine. But, if it is windy, the structure of the tent [covering the stage] may not cope. In that case we would have to go inside." The see the draw, but on two big screens at the ground. The latest forecast is for a dry but cold day with winds dropping from 35mph to less than 25mph as the

afternoon wears on. Wherever the draw is held the stage is going to be crowded. Overseeing the draw will be Platini, Sepp Blatter, general secretary of Fifa, the sport's world governing body, and two French television presenters. Fishing the balls out of bowls will be Franz Beckenbauer and Carlos Alberto Perreira, the last two World Cup winning managers, Liberia's World Player of the Year George Weah. former French internationals



Ready for the balls: The glass bowls which will be used in tonight's draw in Marseilles for the World Cup finals

Photograph: Gabriel Bouys/AFP

wonder local author Peter Mayle was not invited as well.

One illustrious name is missing, last week's runaway winner the world's greatest-ever player. Pele is in Marseilles, work-Vegas four years ago, he is not involved in the draw.

> Officially this is because he is present "in other capacities", though this applies to others involved notably Beckenbauer and Perreira. Unofficially it is because of Pele's long-running dispute with João Havelange,

spectators would still be able to Jean-Pierre Papin, Marius Tre- Fifa's veteran autocratic presisor and Raymond Kopa, and dent. This originally stems from US Olympic women's football a dispute involving television gold medallist Julie Foudy. It's deals in Brazilian football but has developed into a battle for control of the Brazilian game -Havelange's son-in-law, Ricardo Teixeira, is the head of the in the Hall of Fame voting for CBF, the Brazilian FA, Pele is Brazil's sports minister. Pele is currently attempting to pass ing for Mastercard but, as in Las anti-corruption legislation which would emasculate the CBF.

The draw will be preceded by an exhibition match featuring one player from each of the 32 qualifiers. Like the draw, this is beginning to appear a good idea in principle but a bad one in practice. The match is Europe (15 qualifiers plus, bizarrely.

fran) v Rest of the World (the other 16). Beckenbauer and Perreira are managers and they originally chose two impressive squads. However, withdrawals through injury or by clubs have robbed the game of Premiership players Peter Schmeichel and Stig Inge Bjornebye (who are due to be playing at Anfield less than 48 hours later), Dan Petrescu, Gary McAllister, Faustino Asprilla and Mark Fish as well as the likes of Paul Gascoigne, Paulo Maldini, Dejan Savicevic and Jose Luis

Chilavert Paul Ince, suspended for Anfield, has replaced Gascoigne while Gordon Durie steps in for McAllister. He is such a late re-

placement after Ceitic refused Darren Jackson permission he is billed as Ian Durie - by a blockhead, one presumes.

There will be some outstanding talents on display, including Ronaldo. Patrick Kluivert, Zinedine Zidane, Alen Boksic, Gabriel Batistuta and Nwanko Kanu. As well as Ince. Derby's Deon Burton and Chelsea's Frode Grodas represent the Premiership though

both will start on the bench. DOI'N WILL STATE ON THE DETICEL.
EUROPE: Köpke (Germany & Menselles);
Ptelferberger (Austria & Werder Bremen).
Colding (Dermank & Brondby), Costacurta
(haly & Misn, Hierro (Span & Ras Macind),
Lemoine (Belgium & Espanyol), Balakov
(Butgara & VIB Stuttgart), Ince (England & Liverpool), Zidame (France & Juvernus), Boksic
(Crosta & 1,220), Nutivert (Netherlands & Milan) Substitutes Grodes (Norway & Chelsea),
Johanovic (Nugostavia & Tenerira), Lacatus
Demontria Costac Deservation. Couth Korea & Baltmare Histaski, [Chile & Universidad Catolical, Norocco & La Corunal, Bernal (Miledon), Nakata (Japan & Bellimi (Saudi Araba), Batteluta (Ar Forentina), Kamu, Nojeria & Internacional Miledon, Porto (Brazula & Internacional Miledon), Porto (Brazula & Moternacional M Ronado (brazi & memazonale). Subsib urtes: Diaz (Paraguay & Momenrey), Nyath (South Africa & Si Gallen), Bunton (Jamaica & Derby), Wymalda (USA & San Jose Cash), De Avilla (Colombia & New York-New Jersey MetroSibra).

Arise, Sir Pele, page 9 World Cup guide, page 28

Wainwright back for Scotland

Rob Wainwright will be back from injury when the world champions, South Africa, come to Murrayfield on Saturday.

Hecould

lave been a

wugh life: Mark

smith of the Fal

them?

The British Isles flanker's in spirational presence is a major boost to a side still reeling from the demoralising defeat by Australia, His restoration to the captainty in place of the Bath scrum-half Andy Nicol was perhaps the most significant change to emerge when Scotland's coach, Richie Dixon, announced the 15 players charged with reclaiming battered pride against the Springboks.

"We are concentrat is on putting the heart back i performance," Wainwri replaces Adam Roxbur 'We know that South A a very strong side - but l who isn't excited about against them should: there."

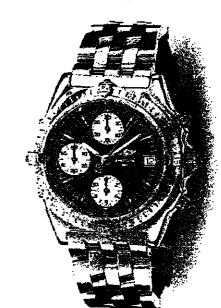
Also back in the sa wing pairing of Craig Derek Stark, the Rowen Shepherd, a Chalmers - the latte: ing to fill the boots of ti Alan Tait in the centr-SCOTLAND (y South Africa.

PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf. Landon E14 SDL, and orinted at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford

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Fine Jewellery Room, Cround Floor



THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

ACROSS Around North words negotiated work in plant (8) Provided with yellow American hat (6) Pawn captured by right

A cause of inflation? (10) 11 Real? True? It's made up anyhow (10) 12 Boat has dirty look reduced (4)
13 Summer's first damn fly!

14 Food with stringy green runner (9) 16 Party of reaction (9) 19 Fool taking credit for

brawl (5) lution (4)
23 Pages offering a sober con- 17

25 Non-Union congress I had to pacify (10)
26 Chisel found by one im-

DOWN Fortify harbour (7) Melancholy without love we crave, and solitary (9) Odd Bach, not church but dance music (5) Interlinked coat ripped? Curst bit of mail! (7,8)

(7) Fruit from tree – in can. otherwise (9) Storm's filled river with

age? (4)
27 Report gist, or edit (6)
28 Discharge makes one pass Fellow lops plants (7)
Moor's weedy plants (5)
Carpet with double check?

18 Plant's scent, note, drifting up (7) 20 Motions presented by groups without following

Stitches stretch, we hear Pounds audibly, making demands (5)

Havelange backs land of gold and diamonds

The 1998 World Cup draw may be the centre of attention in Marseilles but, behind the scenes, the 2006 candidates are seeking to win friends and influence people. Genn Moore reports.

South Africa received the biggest boost in the race to host the World Cup yesterday when João Havelange, the retiring president of the sport's world governing body, Fifa, offered them a ringing endorsement, "South Africa has all the facilities to host the World Cup, "said the 82-year-old

Brazilian, "It's the world No 1 in gold and diamonds and has good communications, road, transport, hotels and stadiums. They have everything needed - all they have to do is ask."

Fortunately for England, Havelange can no longer decide hosts by himself, but he remains influential. Alec McGiven the head of England's bid. said: "South Africa have not entered yet, but it would not be a surprise if they are in contention when the decision is made in two and a half years' time."

Havelange's opinion is interesting, but other people will he making the decision. The Football Association, with bid ambassadors Sir Bobby Charlton

and Geoff Hurst, are conducting a series of low-key briefings with senior foreign journalists. They will be joined today by Tony Banks, the sports minister.

Also in Marseilles yesterday was Alan Shearer, here to complete a 15-year endorsement deal with Umbro which will take him to the age of 42. The deal is worth millions, depending on his and his teams' successes, possibly £10m-20m.

The England and Newcastle United striker confirmed that he did not expect to play again until March but was confident he would be fit for the finals. "The specialist has told me when my ankle injury is mended it will be better than ever," he said,

TENNIS

Larsson sleeps on as bomb explodes under his car

A bomb explosion has damaged the car of Sweden's Magnus Larsson only hours after he returned home following his country's Davis Cup victory. No one was injured in the

explosion, which ripped a hole in the floor of the player's rented car. "I'm not aware that anyone would be after me," he said. "Neither I nor anyone else on the national team have received any threats."

Larsson rented the car in Gothenburg on Monday and drove 125 miles home to the southern city of Vaxjo, where he purked the car outside his apartment building.

A small bomb planted beneath the car exploded early on Tuesday morning. The explosion was heard more than a mile and a half away, but not by me," Larsson said. "I slept right through it."

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No 2. Michael Chang, on Sunday to complete Sweden's 5-0 defeat of the United States. On Friday, he beat Pete Sampras, who retired injured.

Another national team member, Magnus Norman, underwent a five-hour lasersurgery operation on Monday to correct a long-standing heart condition. McEnroe's test, page 29

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